

Iraqis pray for end to sanctions

BAGHDAD (R) — Friday prayers in Baghdad, a blind preacher appeals to Allah to curse all those who support U.N. sanctions crippling Iraq.

His plea strikes a chord among assembled worshippers and in response their "Amen" rumbles around the Sheikh Abdul Qadir Al Gailani Mosque.

"God, the Merciful, wipe out anyone who brought about the embargo. Vent your wrath on the aggressors and deliver our country from its predicament," blared loudspeakers from atop the minaret.

In the courtyard, emaciated women and old men wait in a long queue, carrying pots and dishes. The mosque's cook fills them with rice porridge and a slice of meat.

Every Friday, the poor trickle to the mosque, the burial place of Sheikh Gailani, a 12th century dervish leader and theologian, for handouts of rice, dates, or lentil soup.

Beggars wait at the gate asking for money, while children, some in shabby overalls and worn slippers, cling to mothers on their way to Gailani's charity kitchen.

People interviewed by Reuters Television in Baghdad tried to evade questions on politics and said they were more interested to hear when sanctions, imposed on Iraq for invading Kuwait in 1990, will be eased or lifted.

"Aren't we Muslims. Aren't we human beings? Why is all this being done to us?" Asked a worker at a petrol station.

Shoppers at a Friday market seemed not to care about reports of U.S. rushing military equipment closer to the Gulf and taking other precautions due to what it described as unusual military activity in Baghdad and southern Iraq, which Iraq denied.

"They will bomb us then what? A few bombs and missiles will change nothing," said Mohammad Al Qatani. "Language of bullets has rarely helped. It often backfires."

People on the streets ruled

out a showdown between Iraq and the United States and blamed Washington for their hardships.

"America has been proceeding rashly in its Iraq policy. It is not a clear-cut policy and we the ordinary people are paying the price," said an educated Iraqi with a family of four and a monthly salary of 6,000 dinars, the price of a pair of shoes.

In Jamila, Baghdad's commercial centre, traders said prices surged and slumped in recent days in the light of latest events.

"The fleeing of traitor. Hussein Kamel Hassan sent prices soaring. But they slumped when the government said it will give the U.N. remaining data on weapons," said one trader.

Lieutenant-General Hussein Kamel Hassan and his brother fled Iraq last week along with their wives, who are daughters of President Saddam Hussein, and a group of aides.

The Iraqi dinar tumbled to new lows against the U.S. dollar in the week Hussein Kamel fled to Jordan. But traders said it rallied a bit later and on Friday it was trading at 1,800 for a dollar, firmer than its level of 2,000 last week.

A kilo of rice fell to 750 from about 1,000 dinars and a tray of 30 eggs to 3,000 from 3,500.

An Iraqi civil servant gets about 5,000 dinars a month on average.

"Now the barometer for prices is Ekeus, his comments have direct impact," a trader said.

Rolf Ekeus, head of the U.N. Special Commission disarming Iraq under the 1991 Gulf war ceasefire, is in Baghdad for new data on past weapons programmes.

"If he leaves and is satisfied prices will surely fall but if he says something negative, God forbid, prices may go crazy," added the trader.

A recommendation by Mr. Ekeus to the U.N. Security Council that Iraq has fulfilled obligations related to disarmament could lead to a lifting of the ban on Iraqi oil exports.

Afghanistan dismisses senior envoy in India

NEW DELHI (Agencies) — The Afghan embassy in New Delhi said on Friday it had dismissed a senior diplomat for drunkenness and indecent behaviour and asked India to assist in his deportation.

First Secretary Sultan Mahmud Dehdar "committed an act of gross indecency" which violated the values of Islam and the principles of the Afghan government, the embassy said in a statement.

Indian media quoted police as saying they registered a case of criminal trespass and indecent exposure after Mr. Dehdar was alleged to have exposed himself in front of a woman neighbour early on Thursday.

But local authorities were unable to pursue the case because of Mr. Dehdar's diplomatic immunity.

The Afghan embassy blamed Mr. Dehdar's behaviour on drink and attributed his "shaky" moral and ideological background to his earlier links to communist

party of the Khalq faction. "Otherwise no Muslim and citizen with moral values would have committed such an act," it said.

It said the Afghan government was dismissing Mr. Dehdar from its service and recalling him to face criminal and judicial proceedings. "The Indian government is also requested to assist in the deportation of the said individual," it said.

Mr. Dehdar could not be reached for comment. Police said Mr. Dehdar reportedly sealed a boundary wall of his house on Wednesday night, entered the adjacent building and knocked on the door of a flat, whose Indian occupants he knew.

When a woman opened the door, the diplomat, who was allegedly inebriated, lowered his trousers and made lewd gestures. Police registered a complaint, but said they could not take action because of Dehdar's diplomatic status.



U.S.-Jordan exercises: A scene from the joint U.S.-Jordanian military exercises that began in the southern desert on Friday. About 3,000 American soldiers and 4,000 Jordanian servicemen are taking part in the exercises, code-named "Operation Infinite Moonlight." (photo by Youssef Allan)

Kuwaitis bank on U.S. against Iraq

KUWAIT (AP) — Once again confronted with the possibility of an attack by Iraq, Kuwaitis are asking "will it really do this time?"

But, hardened by repeated periods of tension with Iraq over the last 4½ years, there is little sign of panic — no stockpiling of food, no long lines outside gasoline stations, no rush to withdraw money from the banks, no preparations for a fast getaway.

Kuwaitis and foreign business executives enjoyed their weekends at beach houses to escape the sizzling desert heat.

"This looks like a never-ending story," said Salah Mohammad, a 30-year-old banker. "Every time we get whipped up about the possibility that Saddam Hussein's end might have come, we get let down."

But following the Aug. 8 defection of President Saddam's senior aides, many Kuwaitis feel that the prospect of the Baghdad regime collapsing is now closer.

Yet even as they suspect President Saddam's days may be numbered, Kuwaitis are concerned that despite U.N. efforts to dismantle Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, it still possesses a secret arsenal and may lash out in a doomsday blitz before Saddam goes down.

"He has biological weapons which he might use if he finds that he's going to die," said Salim Rashid, a civil servant.

The Clinton administration has started moving combat equipment toward the Gulf and ordered military units to prepare for possible rapid deployment amid indications of unusually high military activity around Baghdad.

Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990, only to be driven out seven months later by U.S.-led forces.

Last October, after repeated border incursions and skirmishes, Iraq moved its crack Republican Guard divisions southwards towards the Kuwaiti border.

But it pulled them back after the Americans and their allies responded with a major military deployment of their own.

Kuwait's defence minister, Sheikh Ahmad Al-Humoud Al-Sabah, has assured the emirate that satellite photos have detected no Iraqi troop movements below the 32nd Parallel, the northern boundary of an "no-fly zone" imposed by the Americans in August 1992.

He also said that he did not expect a repeat of last October's action "because friendly troops present in the region continuously monitor any movement of the Iraqi

forces."

The key to Kuwaiti confidence remains the U.S. commitment to their defence, a commitment reiterated by Lieutenant-General J.H. Peay, commander of U.S. Central Command which is based in Tampa, Florida and has responsibility for U.S. forces in the region.

Gen. Peay met late Thursday with Kuwait's crown prince and prime minister, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al-Sabah.

The official Kuwait News Agency said Gen. Peay, who commanded U.S. forces during the 1990 Gulf war, "renewed the U.S. commitment to preserve Kuwait's security and U.S. resolve to deter any possible Iraqi threat to the security and stability of the region."

The U.S. embassy said Gen. Peay was reviewing military readiness and options in light of a possible Iraqi threat following the defections.

It added that the visit was "a reaffirmation of the American commitment to the security of the Gulf and its determination and ability to prevent Iraq from again threatening its neighbours."

Kuwait said Saturday it had called up reservists for training but insisted the move was not linked to what it

described as unusual Iraqi troop movements.

The head of the army's mobilization department, Commander Shaker Al-Saoud, said Kuwaitis with university diplomas born in 1965, 1966 and 1967 would be called up, the official KUNA news agency reported.

Men who do not have university diplomas and were born between 1965 and 1971 will be called up later, he added.

"The training of reservists is planned each year, and the call-up is not linked to developments in the region," Mr. Saoud said.

Kuwaiti Information Minister Sheikh Saad Nasser Al-Sabah spoke Saturday of "unusual movements within the Republican Guard, which is a source of concern for Kuwait."

He added that these elite troops had not "passed the 32nd Parallel, but if they do, we will know what to do."

"We are watching the situation very closely and we have made preparations to react to any movement by Iraqi soldiers," Al-Sabah said.

Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz said in an interview with the U.S. television network CNN that Iraq had no plans to attack Jordan or Kuwait.

\$100m suit against Israel for PoW killings

CAIRO (Agencies) — An Egyptian lawyer has filed a \$100 million suit against Israeli leaders for families of Egyptian prisoners of war (PoWs) killed by the Israeli army during the 1956 Suez war, legal sources said on Friday.

A court in the northern coastal city of Alexandria will begin hearing the case raised by Mohammad Al-Shami on Oct. 28, the sources said.

In his suit, Mr. Shami demanded Israeli leaders, notably Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, pay \$100 million in damages to families of Egyptian prisoners of war reported to have been massacred by the Israeli army during the October 1956 war.

It was unclear if Mr. Shami had been hired by the families to file the suit.

Mr. Rabin has denounced the killings of Egyptian prisoners during the war, but refused to condemn the soldiers who committed them.

Retired Israeli General Arieh Biri admitted in early August that he fired upon 99-9 Egyptian PoWs in 1956 because his besieged unit did not have enough men to guard them.

The legal sources did not say if the suit also listed as defendants the commanders of the Israeli forces, Raphael Eitan — now head of the rightwing Tzomet Party — and Ariel Sharon, a prominent member of parliament.

Egypt, which has received from Israel a preliminary report investigating the massacre, called on Israeli leaders to "determine responsibility for these crimes" and

give an exact number of Egyptian PoWs killed.

An Egyptian court has been hearing since July 24 another case against Mr. Rabin filed by a Libyan, Mohammad Bussir.

Mr. Bussir demands \$30 million from Mr. Rabin in damages, accusing Israel of killing his father, a Libyan Foreign Minister Salah Bussir, when it shot down a Libyan civilian jet over Sinai on Feb. 21, 1977.

He also wants the Israeli officials responsible for the attack on the aircraft extradited. The Cairo court of appeals will continue viewing his case on Nov. 29.

Israeli attorney-general Michael Ben Yair said Friday he was studying the question of whether Israeli army officers can be prosecuted for the

PoW killings.

Interviewed on Channel 2 television, he said, "The matter has been submitted to me for examination. It is being studied in my office. I cannot say anything about the examination."

Mr. Ben Yair commented "the murder of prisoners in any war is a very grave act. It violates international law, military ethics and the moral code of the Israeli defence forces."

Other legal commentators have said under present Israeli law the officers involved in the 1956 killings cannot be prosecuted because there is no war crimes law, and murder charges cannot be laid more than 20 years after the crime was committed.

NEWS IN BRIEF

PNA bans issue of Al Quds paper

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — The Palestinian National Authority (PNA) banned the printing of the Saturday issue of the Jerusalem-based Al Quds newspaper, an Al Quds employee said on Saturday. The employee, who insisted on anonymity, said the owners of the newspaper were ordered by the PNA in the self-ruled Gaza Strip not to print the Saturday issue. "It may be an accumulation of reasons, but we can't say we were banned because of a specific article this time," the employee said. He said although the newspaper was told it would be a one-day ban, "it could go on for days." The Al Quds is the largest of two Jerusalem-based daily newspapers. Owners of the newspaper said it distributes around 10,000 copies in the Gaza Strip alone. The ban was imposed despite the authority's endorsement last month of a press and publication law guaranteeing press freedom. The authority has banned distribution of Jerusalem-based newspapers in self-ruled areas twice since it took over the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho in May 1994.

Iran, Syria and Turkey to discuss Iraq

TEHRAN (AFP) — The foreign ministers of Iran, Syria and Turkey are to meet in the central Iranian city of Esfahan on Sept. 7 to review the situation in Iraq, the official Iranian news agency IRNA reported Saturday. The meeting between Ali Akbar Velayati of Iran, Syria's Farouk Al-Sharaa and Turkey's Erdal Inonu will be preceded by a meeting of experts a day earlier in the same city, it said. It will be the sixth such gathering in four years between the three countries, which have repeatedly stressed their commitment to Iraq's territorial integrity, fearing the creation of a Kurdish state, have sizeable Kurdish minorities of their own. The meeting in Esfahan will take on extra importance because of the defection to Jordan of Iraq's Industry Minister Hussein Kamel Hassan. The last such meeting was held in Istanbul, Turkey, in August 1994. Ankara's intervention in northern Iraq in March to bring down Turkish Kurd rebels forced the postponement of the last scheduled tripartite meeting.

Sudan to cultivate land in south

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan will launch an ambitious plan to cultivate land in war-torn southern states this year, an official newspaper said on Saturday. Ali Ingaz Al-Watani quoted Mubarak Gismallah Zaid, director general of the state-run Peace and Development Corporation, as saying the plan covered up to 600,000 acres of land in southern states reported to have come under government control recently. Government forces are said to have recaptured 18 towns and villages from the rebel Sudan Peoples Liberation Army (SPLA) in the past two and a half years. The Sudanese army said its most recent capture was the town of Kaya near the border with Uganda. Many areas of southern Sudan face serious food shortages and depend on relief assistance. Mr. Zaid said the government had started cultivating areas in the states of northern Bahr Al-Ghazal, Waras, Eastern Equatoria and Jonglei. Farming in these areas had been suspended due to the 13-year-old civil war.

500 kg of cocaine seized in Beirut

BEIRUT (R) — Drug enforcement agents at Beirut airport foiled an attempt to smuggle more than 500 kilograms of cocaine into Lebanon from Brazil, customs sources said on Saturday. They said the drugs were seized on Friday, packed in cardboard barrels as industrial and chemical products. The cocaine has a wholesale value of \$10 million in Lebanon, a figure that could rise to \$50 million after the drug is cut, the sources added. Lebanese authorities have cracked down on drug cultivations processing and trafficking after the illegal trade thrived in Lebanon during its 1975-90 civil war.

Iran keen to promote trade with Africa

HARARE (R) — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said on Friday his country was determined to boost its relations with southern African states. Mr. Velayati told reporters in Harare after a courtesy call on President Robert Mugabe that Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani had accepted an invitation from Mr. Mugabe to visit Zimbabwe. He said a date for the trip would be fixed soon. "We are determined to strengthen the relationship between ourselves and SADC (Southern African Development Community) countries, especially those countries with which we have a history of friendship like Zimbabwe," he said. Mr. Velayati later signed an agreement with his Zimbabwean counterpart Stan Mudenge to set up a joint commission to promote trade, economic, cultural, scientific and technical cooperation between the two countries. The Iranian minister arrived in Harare on Thursday from South Africa, where he also signed a trade promotion agreement.

6 injured in plane crash in Jerusalem

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — A light plane crashed at a Jerusalem airport after take-off Friday, injuring six people, one of them critically, police said. "I saw the plane was not (flying) straight... and it flew that way until it hit the ground," said Izzeddine Maharik, a truck driver who witnessed the crash. The Piper Lance crashed about 600 metres away from the runway, police said. The cause of the crash was not known. Of the six people aboard, one was critically injured, three were in serious condition and one was lightly hurt. Israel Radio said the plane was destined for Cyprus. The crash came a day after a twin-engine plane, also bound for Cyprus, crashed after take-off at an airport in northern Israel. Two people were lightly hurt. After Friday's crash, police closed Atarot airport and began an investigation.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

14:00 The Flinstones
14:30 The Mighty Jungle
15:00 Pugsall Summer
15:30 Sky Trackers
16:00 Families
17:00 Children's Programme — Doug
17:30 Reportage — Envoy Special
18:00 News in French
19:15 Ushala
19:30 News Headlines
19:35 Cinema, Cinema
20:00 Cinema, Cinema
20:30 The Bold and the Beautiful
21:15 Startblair
22:00 News in English
22:25 Counterstrike
23:30 The Hidden Room
23:59 Keeping Up Appearances

PRAYER TIMES

04:35 Fajr
05:50 (Sunrise) Duhr
12:30 Dhuhr
16:18 'Asr
19:20 Maghrib
21:43 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swelleh, Tel. 810740
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terranova Church Tel. 623366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 711331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church Tel. 632526

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 641955

The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology

Moderate summer weather conditions will prevail with winds northwesterly moderate to active. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min/Max temp.
Amman 17/31
Aqaba 25 / 37

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Descents 16 / 35
Jordan Valley 24 / 37

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 32, Aqaba 36, Humidity
readings: Amman 27 per cent,
Aqaba 33 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Ghazi Abu Sheikh 752405
Dr. Sina Al-Zayid 737902
Dr. Walid Al-Masri 675485
Dr. Youssef Rashid 896301
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asena pharmacy 637055
Neitroukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636750
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmoukhi pharmacy 637660
Najib pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 647632
IRBID:
Dr. Ali Al-Omari 272032
Alquds pharmacy (—)
ZARQA:
Dr. Youssef Harzallah 988075
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 611111
Civil Defence Emergency 630441
Rescue 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 778121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage

Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority

Electric Power 815615
Company 656381
RJ Flight Information 06-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 06-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hassan Medical Centre 81813/332
Khaleel Maternity, J. Amn 642281/6
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 645845
Al-Mustashfi Hospital 672279
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/27
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775112/6
Army, Marka 891611/5
Queen Alia Hospital 612340/50
Amal Hospital 617153
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Hassan National Hospital (09)983323
Jabal Amman Maternity (09)983323
Al-Hana Modern Hospital (09)989990
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 965194
IRBID:
Princess Bama Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275
Jin Al-Nefes Hospital (02)347100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

05:30 Bangkok (RJ)
06:45 Aqaba (RJ)
06:45 Jeddah (RJ)
09:30 Larnaca (RJ)
09:30 Dhahran, Riyadh (RJ)
09:30 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:30 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
10:30 Ankara, Istanbul (RJ)
14:55 Amsterdam, Brussels (RJ)
17:20 Chicago (add)
17:45 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
18:50 London (RJ)
19:00 Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
19:15 Athens (RJ)
20:40 Rome (RJ)
22:30 Frankfurt (RJ)
22:30 Vienna, Munich (RJ)
01:15 Cairo (RJ)
02:15 Aqaba (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)
11:30 Sanaa (Y)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

05:25 Madrid (RJ)
06:30 Aqaba (RJ)
06:40 Beirut (RJ)
11:00 Frankfurt (RJ)
11:45 Vienna, Munich (RJ)
12:10 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
12:15 Rome (RJ)
12:15 Ankara, Istanbul (RJ)
12:40 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
13:25 Bangkok (add)
21:20 Cairo (RJ)
21:25 New Delhi (RJ)
22:00 Dubai (RJ)
22:30 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
23:00 Jeddah (RJ)
23:00 Damascus (RJ)
23:45 Singapore, Jakarta (RJ)
23:45 Bangkok (RJ)
00:15 Aqaba (RJ)
00:30 Sanaa (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)
07:30 Rome (AZ)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in Jds per kg.

Apple 700 / 500
Banana (Mukammal) 620
Cabbage 120 / 80
Carrot 280 / 180
Cauliflower 320 / 220
Cucumbers (large) 180 / 100
Cucumbers (small) 300 / 200
Eggplant 160 / 100
Figs 440 / 200
Garlic 650 / 500
Lemon 380 / 250
Marrow (large) 300 / 200
Marrow (small) 340 / 250
Mushrooms 120 / 80
Okra 720 / 550
Onion (dry) 200 / 100
Peas 480 / 300
Orange 250 / 150
Pepper (hot) 750 / 600
Pepper (sweet) 180 / 100
Potato 160 / 100
String Beans 380 / 280
Sweet Melon 480 / 300
Tomato 250 / 150
Water Melon 120 / 80

M (R) — The Palestinian newspaper banned the printing of the paper on Saturday. The newspaper, said the owner, the PNA in the self-ruled Gaza Strip. "It may be this time," the employee said. "The paper was told it would be for days." The AI Quds paper has been banned for about 10,000 copies a month of a press and publication freedom. The authorities took over the Gaza Strip in May 1994.

key to discuss in

foreign ministers of Iran, said the central Iranian newspaper reported Saturday. The newspaper, said the owner, the PNA in the self-ruled Gaza Strip. "It may be this time," the employee said. "The paper was told it would be for days." The AI Quds paper has been banned for about 10,000 copies a month of a press and publication freedom. The authorities took over the Gaza Strip in May 1994.

land in south

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a trade with Africa

foreign Minister Ali Abi said the country was determined to open a trade mission in Africa after a country call. The newspaper, said the owner, the PNA in the self-ruled Gaza Strip. "It may be this time," the employee said. "The paper was told it would be for days." The AI Quds paper has been banned for about 10,000 copies a month of a press and publication freedom. The authorities took over the Gaza Strip in May 1994.

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MARKET PRICES

Item	Price
Wheat (large)	120
Wheat (small)	110
Barley	100
Maize	90
Soybean	80
Groundnut	70
Mustard	60
Peas	50
Lentils	40
Chickpeas	30
Black gram	20
Green gram	10
White gram	5

Home News

Jordan Times, August 20, 1995



Head of the Ministry of Health Radiology Department Samir Kayed Saturday presides over the opening session of a two-day conference on cancer organised by the Jordanian Tumour Society (Petra photo)

Ministry to begin cancer registry in '96 Radiologist says cancer incidence lower than in other countries

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Health has created a special unit to begin a cancer registry in the Kingdom starting in 1996, according to Samir Kayed, head of the Radiology Department at the ministry.

Addressing the opening session of a two-day conference on cancer, organised by the Jordanian Tumour Society, Dr. Kayed said that the unit has already been adequately supplied and staffed. The unit will also work to develop a strategy to promote cancer prevention.

Dr. Kayed, deputising for Health Minister Aref Batayneh, told the meeting that according to available information, Jordan does not have a serious cancer problem.

He said that studies of statistics available to the ministry reveal that cancer cases in the Kingdom are relatively far below those in other countries.

Nonetheless, Dr. Kayed said the Ministry of Health has given attention to the treatment of cancer by helping to create the Al Amal Cancer Centre which is due to open shortly.

The centre will conduct research and offer treatment to cancer patients.

A total of 35 working papers are before the delegates to the two-day conference. The delegates represent Jordan, Egypt, Tunisia, Libya, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Syria, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, the U.S. and the United Kingdom.

Following the opening session Dr. Kayed opened an exhibition of medical equipment used in the treatment of cancer.

Study on labour migration problem cites weak policies of departments

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Planning Saturday said the existence of so many foreign workers is partly attributable to weak policies on guest workers by concerned departments, among them the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Labour and the Public Security Department.

A study conducted by the ministry disclosed Saturday that the largest number of non-Jordanian labourers employed in the Kingdom were Egyptians, followed by Iraqis and Syrians.

The study, contained in a working paper submitted to the opening session of a seminar on migration of labourers, said that Jordanians working in Arab countries in 1993 numbered nearly 275,000, while non-Jordanians living here were estimated at 257,921 of whom nearly 88 per cent were of Arab nationalities.

The study, which was prepared by Hussein Khatib, a Ministry of Planning consultant, said that non-Jordanians with work permits constituted 15.3 per cent of the

total number of guest workers in the Kingdom.

According to the paper, unemployment and the willingness on the part of the government to cooperate with Arab Gulf states played a major part in the migration of Jordanian workers to other states.

Minister of Labour Nader Abul Sha'ar said that this ministry has always encouraged and facilitated matters for Jordanian workers living and working abroad.

The study also said that the reasons behind the existence of a large number of non-Jordanian workers in Jordan were, first, the adoption by the Ministry of Labour of an open-door policy in receiving non-Jordanian workers, second, weaknesses in department policies to control the labour market especially as Arabs are not required to obtain a visa to enter Jordan, and third, employer preferences to hire non-Jordanians who are more willing to accept lower wages.

Earlier this month, Mr. Abul Sha'ar issued a statement saying that the unemployment rate stood at 18.8 per cent for 1995, and that the country has taken measures to control the influx of



Minister of Labour Nader Abul Sha'ar (second right) Saturday attends the opening of a seminar on migration of labourers along with representatives of the International Labour Organisation and the Arab Labour Organisation (photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

foreign labourers who already number 250,000.

The seminar was organised by the Ministry of Labour in cooperation with the International Labour Organisation and the Arab Labour Organisation.

1.315m students to start school this year

AMMAN (J.T.) — Following two months of summer holiday nearly 58,000 public and private school teachers returned to their schools Saturday to prepare for the start of the new scholastic year due to start August 22.

A Ministry of Education statement Saturday said that arrangements for the start of the school year have been made but noted that there have been some delays in the printing of some textbooks for the first secondary class and that the shortage may have to be solved through photocopying.

Ministry sources said that 1.315m students are expected to be in their classrooms at schools run by the ministry, the private sector, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) and the Jordanian Armed Forces by Tuesday and that schools this year will receive a total of 115,000 children in their first year at school.

The ministry statement said that it had appointed new teachers in various governorates as early as May of this year and that it has provided teacher training course to 5,000 teachers this year. It said that arrangements were made early this year in order to allow teachers to start giving lessons from the first day of classes.



School students on their way home from classes (file photo)

Jordan, Israel to sign energy accord today

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan and Israel today sign an accord in cooperation in energy that would involve joint studies on exploiting shale oil and benefiting from each other's experience in rationalising consumption of energy.

The agreement, which will be signed in Aqaba by Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Samih Darwazah and his Israeli counterpart, is part of a series of accords that Jordan and Israel would enter after the two countries made peace and signed a peace treaty in October.

In comments carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Mr. Darwazah said the accord would also provide for exchange of information in the use of solar and wind energy as well as rationalise the use of energy and oil.

The two sides will also conduct joint seismological surveys in the southern Wadi Araba region, Petra quoted Mr. Darwazah as saying.

Jordan and Israel will also connect their national power

grids. Work on a preliminary link in the Aqaba-Eilat area is already under way.

This connection will allow Israel to use extra power generated at the Aqaba Thermal Power Plant for use at its considerably large tourism infrastructure at Eilat, including hotels and other facilities.

However, the major connection between the power grids will be in the central region and is expected to take some time because of the size of the project and costs involved.

Once that project is completed, Israel would be part of a regional network that involves Jordan, Egypt, Syria and Turkey.

Officials say that the network would be complete by 1998, by which time Israel is expected to have reached a peace accord with Syria.

Iraq is also part of the regional network under an agreement signed in 1994, but that country could be the last to be connected with the network because of the continuing sanctions that were imposed on it by the United Nations in 1990.

Jordan and Israel have signed several cooperation agreements after the signing of the peace treaty. These include border security and travel procedures as well as tourism.

The two sides have already worked out a draft trade accord, which was supposed to have been signed before May 10 but was delayed because of conflicting approaches. The way for signing the trade accord was cleared when Parliament last month ratified laws that repealed decades-old legislation against any dealing with Israel.

In the field of energy, Israeli expertise in utilising shale oil and advanced use of solar energy is expected to benefit Jordan. Both countries have huge deposits of shale rock in the central region.

Jordan has received several proposals from foreign companies to set up shale oil energy plants on a "build, own and operate" as well as "build, operate and transfer" basis, but no definite shape has been given to any project yet.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Jordan-Syria panel to meet

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian-Syrian commercial committee will meet in Damascus on Aug. 27 under the chairmanship of the ministers of industry and trade of the two countries. Discussion will cover bilateral trade and ways to promote economic cooperation.

Runway closes for repairs

AMMAN (Petra) — The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) Saturday closed the north-

ern runway of the Queen Alia International Airport for maintenance. Airport Director Abdul Hamid Kabariti said the work will cost JD 1.22 million and take five months to complete.

Produce headed for Moscow

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian Society for Exporters of Agricultural Products will take part in Moscow's first exposition of food and beverages due to open on Aug. 24. The society said it has already sent a shipment of vegetables and fruits.

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILM

Foundation, Jabal Amman at 6:30 p.m.

"The Muppet Movie" at the American Centre at 5:00 p.m.

PLAYS

"The Maids," (written by Jean Genet) starring Majid Al Qasas and Najwa Kondakji at the Royal Cultural Centre, Main Theatre at 8:30 p.m.

"Badranah," (in Arabic) at the Royal Cultural Centre at 7:00 p.m.

LECTURE

Lecture (in Arabic) entitled "Lost Pages in Arab History" by Mr. Zaki Ghoul at Abdul Hameed Shoman

EXHIBITIONS

Oil paintings by Yassin Al Mohamadawi at Baladna Art Gallery.

Paintings by "Pioneers of the Fifties" Isma'il and Suzanne Al Sheikhly, Khalid Qassab, and Dr. Nuri Behjet at Orfali Art Gallery, Umm Utheina.

"Exhibition of Chinese Products '95," at Al Bassam Hall, King Abdullah Gardens.

Exhibition demonstrating the developments of cinema over the past century at the French Cultural Centre.

Cultural conference to look into theatre arts

AMMAN (Petra) — "Jordanian Theatre: Its Present and Future Outlook" is the theme of Jordan's fourth cultural conference which is to open Sunday in Amman with the participation of delegates from various Arab countries, according to an announcement Saturday by Ministry of Culture Secretary General Mohammad Amaireh.

Mr. Amaireh told a press gathering that the five-day conference will include nine working sessions addressed by playwrights, theatre researchers, directors and producers of plays as well as leaders of theatre groups from various Arab countries.

The delegates will discuss the development of Arab and Jordanian theatre work, as well as children's theatre, and the future of theatre in the Arab World.

The first cultural conference was held in Amman in 1992.

Local Administrator/Manager

A U.S. contractor seeks a part-time local administrator/manager in Jordan to support a community participation/environmental health project funded by USAID. The position will require 10 work days a month over a 12-15 months period.

Requirements:

- Post-graduate degree in a development-related field and 10 years of experience working on development projects preferably in the area of health, environment, economics, and social sciences.
- Experience in administration, managing finances, providing technical input, and monitoring and training host-country manager.
- Experience working with U.S. development firms and agencies such as USAID.
- Excellent English editing and writing skills needing no further correcting.
- Native speaker proficiency in written and oral English.
- Good word processing and computer skills.
- Interviews with selected candidates will be held in mid-September.
- Pay will be based on salary history and applicable regulations.

Please send resume and expression of interest of by fax to EHP at :
EHP
Attn.: Margo Kelly
Fax: 001-703-243-9004



Boys play in a foul-smelling water ditch in Mahata (photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

Chechens continue handing in arms despite Russian attacks

GROZNY (AFP) - Chechen fighters continued surrendering their weapons Saturday, despite reports of ongoing fighting between guerrillas and Russian forces, a spokesman for Chechen separatist leader Dzhokhar Dudayev said.

"The Russian firing at Achkhoy Martan was a provocation destined to interrupt negotiations," Movladi Udugov told AFP, referring to Russian attacks this week in the area 50 kilometres west of Grozny.

But he said the disarmament operation, begun August 16, in southeast Chechnya, would continue Saturday in Achkhoy Martan and in Shali, a former separatist stronghold 30 kilometres south of Grozny.

Udugov added Achkhoy Martan had elected 25 members to a Chechen self-defence committee in return for disarming, in line with the Russian-Chechen military agreement signed July 30. According to Udugov, preparations for disarmament should also take place in the regions of Gudermes,

the second largest town in the republic, situated 50 kilometres east of the capital, and in Shatoi in the mountains to the south.

He said Chechens had handed six armoured troop transports over to Russian forces Friday in Gekhi, a small town 30 kilometres southwest of Grozny.

Vasily Panchenkov, member of the Russian delegation to peace talks, told AFP the Russian-Chechen commission responsible for monitoring the disarmament process was due Saturday to travel to Achkhoy Martan, Shali and Kurchaloy, a large town east of Shali.

Earlier Saturday, the Russian ITAR-TASS news agency reported a Russian soldier was killed and 12 others wounded in one of two separate attacks by Chechen fighters in the republic overnight.

The troops returned fire in several of the attacks, the agency added, citing the Russian interior ministry in the Chechen capital Grozny.

Moscow's Echo Radio reported Friday Vladimir

Zorin, who headed the Russian delegation at the peace talks which produced the accord, and Chechen chief negotiator Khodzha Khmed Yarikhonov had agreed to resume political talks on the future of Chechnya in Grozny on Tuesday.

Under the military accord, Chechen self-defence units of up to 25 lightly armed men are to be set up in villages after guerrillas surrender their weapons and Russian troops withdraw.

Russia is to leave behind one brigade of interior ministry troops and one mechanised brigade of army troops in Chechnya for a total of about 6,000 troops.

But disagreements over disarmament and lists of prisoners to be exchanged have held up the full implementation of the accord. Russian troops poured into the small Caucasus Republic last December to crush an independence bid led by Dudayev. The intervention triggered an eight-month war that has left between 15,000 and 30,000 dead, according to various estimates.



A Russian army officer (L) inspects an automatic rifle in the village of Zandak near the Chechen-Dagestan border earlier this week. This was the first ceremony in which Chechen rebels handed in their weapons according to a military deal between Moscow and the separatists signed on July 30 (Reuters photo)

India weighs risks in Kashmir rescue effort

SRINAGAR, India, (R) - The Indian government was weighing the risks on Saturday of a possible military raid to free four Western hostages from Muslim militants, but officials said such a move would be considered only as a last resort.

They said a group of Western specialists experienced in handling kidnappings met the governor of India's Jammu and Kashmir State, K.V. Krishna Rao, on Saturday to discuss the various options.

Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao told state-run All India Radio as saying that New Delhi would make "all possible efforts...To secure the safe release of the hostages."

It did not say whether these efforts included negotiations to free 15 jailed Muslim militants as demanded by the Al-Faran group holding the hostages

— an American, two Britons and a German — in exchange for sparing their lives.

Al-Faran, which kidnapped five Western tourists from Kashmir's scenic Pahalgam Mountains last month, beheaded Norway's Hans Christian Ostroe last weekend.

Asked whether the government planned to mount a commando raid on the little-known group's mountain hideout, an official spokesman said: "Only if the other options are closed off and we think the hostages are not safe, then we'll consider it."

"They won't come to terms till they are worn out," he added.

The group, responding to news that foreign hostage negotiators had joined efforts to free the hostages, warned on Friday that the four would be killed in any

raid.

"Al-Faran has expressed its surprise over the government's plans to launch a military operation for the rescue of the tourists," Al-Faran said in a statement to an international news agency in Srinagar, summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir.

The warning came as diplomats confirmed that British police negotiators from Scotland Yard had been in India for "some days" to support attempts to end a six-week hostage-taking ordeal in which a Norwegian tourist was beheaded by his shadowy captors.

An Indian official declined to confirm or deny press reports that members of the elite British special Air Service (SAS), the U.S. Delta force and Germany's anti-terrorism force were also in Kashmir to help solve the hostage crisis.

"But if they are there then

any advice they can give will be welcome," he said. "We are doing everything in close coordination with the countries concerned."

Pressure on New Delhi to mount a rescue raid increased dramatically on Sunday when the beheaded remains of Ostroe, 27, were found by a peasant collecting firewood in remote Kashmir.

Al-Faran militants, unknown even to Kashmiri separatists before the abductions, threatened in a note found near Ostroe's body to kill the remaining four hostages unless 15 jailed guerrilla comrades were released within two days.

The group still holds Britons Keith Mangan and Paul Wells, American Donald Hutchings and German Dirk Hasert.

ETA admits failed attack

BILBAO, Spain (AFP) - The Basque separatist group ETA on Saturday admitted responsibility for a failed assassination attempt against King Juan Carlos on the Spanish island of Mallorca earlier this month.

Police foiled the plan when they arrested three ETA members on August 9 in Palma de Mallorca.

According to judicial sources, the three arrested men admitted trying to kill the king, but Saturday's claim, made in a statement published in the Basque separatist newspaper Egin was the organisation's first formal admission of involvement.

ETA blamed the failure of the bid on "technical complications," adding that the group had the king in their line of fire twice in August.

The leader of the commando told a judge shortly after their arrest that the commando team, equipped with a gun with telescopic sights, managed to bring King Juan Carlos into their line of fire on several occasions while he was on board his yacht. Police have rejected this account, saying the king was never in danger during the operation.

Yeltsin calls for rapprochement with democratic forces

MOSCOW (AFP) - Russian President Boris Yeltsin marked the fourth anniversary of the failed 1991 coup by hardline communists Saturday with a call for closer ties between the Kremlin and the country's "democratic forces."

In an interview with the daily Komsomolskaya Pravda, parts of which were distributed by the presidential press office, Mr. Yeltsin said most of the differences between him and the democratic opposition "can be resolved."

Mr. Yeltsin plans to continue talks with party leaders to create a centrist bloc ahead of legislative elections slated for December and a presidential poll due in June next year.

For months he has angled for a rapprochement with the pro-reform Russia's choice party, headed by ex-Premier Yegor Gaidar, and the centrist Yabloko Party of Grigory Yablinsky. He also wants closer ties with the conservative opposition of the communist and agrarian parties.

Referring to the August 1991 coup attempt against then-soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, Mr. Yeltsin said it was defeated by the people because its perpetrators

had tried to "savagely usurp power."

If the putsch had been successful, he argued, it would have caused the collapse of the former Soviet Union to develop into a bloody debacle "inevitably engulfing the whole of Russia."

The constitution of December 1993 had saved Russia's political stability, he went on, advocating the creation of a genuine middle class and a modern judicial system.

"For that, people have to change themselves, ordinary citizens as well as politicians," he said, rejecting suggestions Russians preferred dictatorship to democracy.

He admitted the country still suffered many problems, including criminality which exposed the "insufficient" efforts taken against terrorism and organised crime.

"We need a considerable overhaul of the whole system of running the special services and forces of order" to protect society against crime, he added.

However he denied plans to re-establish the former KGB intelligence service in the all-embracing form it once enjoyed. It has been replaced by two services, one for external and one for internal security.

Malaysia rejects Rod Stewart concert

KUALA LUMPUR (AP) - The government of the Malaysian state of Selangor has rejected an application by rock star Rod Stewart to hold a concert there because it would fall on independence day and the Muslim day of prayer. Selangor states Chief Minister Mohammad Taib asked Mr. Stewart to apply for a new date, noting Aug. 31 fell on Friday, when prayers and religious functions would be conducted in the state mosque near the stadium where the concert would be held. He also said the date was inappropriate because Malaysians would be celebrating independence day.

'Addicted' EU commissioner chided for smoking

BRUSSELS (R) - A European commissioner was told off publicly by a journalist on Friday for smoking during a news conference. "I'm a deep addict," Italy's Emma Bonino pleaded after a reporter chided her for violating the commission press room's no-smoking ban. The commission is a firm advocate of reducing smoking as a key way to fight cancer.

First woman cadet drops out of the Citadel

CHARLESTON, South Carolina (AFP) - The woman who became the first female cadet admitted to a prestigious all-male military academy following a lengthy court battle announced Friday she was quitting for health reasons. Shannon Faulkner, 20, had spent most of the first week of school, known as "hell week," under medical care after apparently being overcome by heat and exhaustion. She spent more than two years fighting for a place in the cadet corps of the Citadel, a 152-year-old state-supported military academy that lost two last-minute appeals to the Supreme Court to remain all-male.

"This is my personal health that I have to worry about now," Ms. Faulkner told journalists. "I have no earthly idea of what I am going to do now." My life is going to be miserable right now for awhile," she said, speaking to reporters under a heavy rain.

Hitler's mistress had another lover — report

BONN (AFP) - Adolf Hitler's mistress Eva Braun had a secret lover, a senior SS officer whom she met early in 1944 in the Fuehrer's Bavarian retreat of Berchtesgaden, Bild newspaper said Friday, quoting Soviet archives. Obergruppenfuhrer (general) Otto Hermann Fegelein was a notorious ladies man, to the irritation of his boss, Heinrich Himmler, according to the popular daily. At Himmler's behest he got married — choosing Eva Braun's sister Gred in order to be near his love.

As the Nazi regime collapsed, Fegelein tried to convince Braun to flee with him and leave Hitler in his bunker, but she did not dare, according to the report. Hours later Fegelein was arrested on the orders of Hitler, who had got wind of their affair, and Braun's lover was executed in the garden of the chancellery. Holed up in the bunker under the chancellery, Hitler and Braun were then married on April 29 and committed suicide the next day as the Allied forces took Berlin.

'Women's train' to cross Siberia for Beijing conference

PARIS (AFP) - An all-women train Friday left Paris for a trans-Siberian journey bound for the fourth world conference of women in the Beijing region, organisers said Thursday. The train is expected to take 11 days to cover the journey of about 10,000 kilometres arriving in Beijing on August 29, the day before the opening of the conference. It is scheduled to stop in Berlin on August 19, in Warsaw on August 21 and in Moscow, from which it will leave for Beijing, on August 23. The 150 women expected to travel on the train are headed for a conference organised by non-governmental organisations, taking place between August 30 and September 8 outside the Chinese capital.

Analysts: Carlsson resignation gives time to find successor

STOCKHOLM (AFP) - Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson's sudden announcement he will step down next spring is a shrewd move aimed at giving his Social Democratic Party time to find a viable successor, political commentators said Saturday.

Mr. Carlsson's decision is "a logical and tactical choice," an editorial in the Swedish daily Dagens Nyheter said Saturday.

After 10 years at the helm of his party, including seven as prime minister, Mr. Carlsson, 60, considered the time had come "to pass on the torch" to a new generation and bring his party into the 21st-century, the Swedish daily Svenska Dagbladet added.

Through the abrupt announcement, Mr. Carlsson apparently hopes to leave his party sufficient time between now and next March to find a successor.

He also hoped to profit from his strong popularity in the country to lead the Social Democrats to victory during European elections in September, and so retire on a high note, analysts said.

Mr. Carlsson's decision was greeted with surprise among the ranks of his party, but his followers also respected him for knowing when to bow out gracefully. So far no one has come forward to clamour for his job, but according to political commentators, there are four prime candidates.

The favourite is Mona Sahlin, 38, deputy prime minister, also minister for sexual equality.

However, Ms. Sahlin's relative youth — which would make her the youngest prime minister in the history of the country — is likely to militate against



Sweden's Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson gestures during a press conference Friday announcing that he will resign next year (AFP photo)

her.

In frequent media interviews, Ms. Sahlin has also committed a serious of gaffes which might not be forgiven, commentators said.

Coordination Minister Jan Nygren, 45, with a reputation as a sportsman and an unmarried father, has a relatively low public profile, but his track record as an efficient party organiser could earn him considerable support.

Other possible contenders are Agriculture Minister Margareta Winberg, 48, a declared opponent of the

European Union, and charismatic Finance Minister Goran Persson, 46, renowned as an economic realist who has exercised a tight cost-cutting policy over the past year.

Mr. Carlsson Friday said he was stepping down at a time the government's efforts to clean up Sweden's finances were making headway, and after he had successfully led the social Democrats back to power last autumn and taken Sweden into the European Union.

He will resign at a special party congress next March, 10 years after taking power from his predecessor Olof Palme who was gunned down in a Stockholm street.

"At the extraordinary congress in 1996, we will leave behind us a period of difficult, but necessary and ultimately successful, decisions. This will be a good time for a new leader to take charge of the Social Democratic Party, ahead of the 21st century," Mr. Carlsson said.

On the markets, the Swedish krona weakened and long-term interest rates rose sharply in response to the political uncertainty.

Tutu upset over Mandela divorce

CAPE TOWN (AFP) - Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu said Saturday he was "deeply distressed" over the impending divorce of South African President Nelson Mandela and his estranged wife Winnie.

But he said he believed that if there was no chance of reconciliation, divorce was a logical step.

Mr. Mandela's lawyer confirmed on Thursday that the president had initiated divorce proceedings against

Winnie, from whom he separated in 1992, two years after his release from 27 years in jail.

Mr. Mandela has refused to comment on the divorce, stating it was a matter causing him "deep trauma."

Archbishop Tutu said both Mandelas should be free to find other partners and the president "needs to have someone give him his slippers and someone on whose shoulders he can cry."

"We are saddened by the fact that this marriage that

seemed to survive all that the apartheid system could throw at it should ... be disintegrating," Archbishop Tutu said in an interview with Worldwide Television News.

Winnie Mandela has been involved in a series of controversial incidents, including a conviction for kidnapping a young activist who was later murdered, allegations of financial mismanagement and reports of an affair.

Pope says unity with Chinese church difficult

VATICAN CITY (R) - Pope John Paul said Saturday he believed followers of China's Catholic church, forced by communist authorities to renounce ties with the Vatican four decades ago, privately recognised his supremacy.

But he expressed doubt unity with Rome would come soon.

"What we are talking about is a long and difficult journey," the Pope said. "The goal is clear enough, but the path leading to it seems still obscure."

The remarks were the Pope's first major statement

on China since his Asian-Pacific tour last January when Vatican-Sino relations appeared to be warming up.

He was speaking to nine Taiwanese bishops, including Archbishop Joseph Ti-Kang of Taipei, during a meeting at his summer residence in Castelgandolfo, outside Rome.

It was the establishment of diplomatic ties with Taiwan which prompted China to break with the Vatican in 1957.

China has said it will not normalise relations until the Vatican severs its ties with

Taiwan.

The Vatican, on the other hand, has demanded recognition of the Pope's primacy before it renews ties with China.

Beijing controls the practice of the Roman Catholic faith in China through the state-sponsored Catholic Patriotic Association (CPA), whose three million members are not allowed to recognise the Pope's authority.

Several million other Chinese Catholics remain faithful to Rome by worshipping at members of an underground church.

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Malaysia rejects Rod Stewart concert

KUALA LUMPUR — The government of Malaysia has rejected an application for a concert by rock star Rod Stewart. A concert there would fall on Independence Day and the Muslim prayer. Selangor state Minister Mohd. Muhammad Taib said Stewart to apply for a date, noting Aug. 31 is a religious function. He also said the date was inappropriate for Malaysians who are rating independence.

'Addicted' EU commissioner chided for smoking

BRUSSELS (R) — An EU commissioner was off publicly by a journalist for smoking. "Italy's Commissioner" no pleaded after a day of the commission press conference. The mission is a firm advice reducing smoking as a way to fight cancer.

First woman drops out of the Citadel

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP) — A woman who became the first female cadet at the Citadel, a military academy following a court battle, announced today she was quitting. Faulkner, 20, had spent the first week of the summer as "hell week" medical care after being overcome by heat exhaustion. She spent more than two years in place in the Citadel, a 152-year-old military academy that lost two last year to the court. "This is my personal idea of what I can do now," she said, saying she would return to her home.

Hitler's mistress had another life — report

BONN (AFP) — Hitler's mistress Eva Braun, a secret lover, a secretary, a nurse, a friend, a confidante, a woman who lived with him from 1944 in the Führer's retreat of Berchtesgaden. Bild newspaper Friday, quoting Swiss biographer, Oskar Negt (general) Otto Hergel, said Braun was a woman, a friend, a confidante, a woman who lived with him from 1944 in the Führer's retreat of Berchtesgaden. Bild newspaper Friday, quoting Swiss biographer, Oskar Negt (general) Otto Hergel, said Braun was a woman, a friend, a confidante, a woman who lived with him from 1944 in the Führer's retreat of Berchtesgaden.

Women's train cross Siberia Beijing conference

PARIS (AFP) — A women's train for a trans-Siberian conference of women, bound for the fourth conference of women, Beijing region, was expected to take 11 days to cover the journey of 10,000 kilometers from Beijing to Moscow.

Liberian peace accord has been reached — NPFL

ABUJA (AFP) — The seven warring factions of Liberia agreed to a new peace accord ending six years of conflict Saturday and were to sign it by the end of the day, a factional spokeswoman in Nigeria's federal capital said. Victoria Reffell of the National Patriotic Front (NPFL) said a deal had been agreed among the seven warring factions following four days of negotiations and was to be signed at 5:00 p.m. local time (1600 GMT). "It will work," she said. Since the start of the conflict in December 1989, about a dozen peace accords have been signed and scrapped. Final details of the peace plan have not yet been released. But according to information obtained by AFP, the latest proposals were for a six-member council of state, or collective presidency, to be headed by Wilton Sankawulo, a lecturer and former government official from the Kpelle ethnic group. The two wings of the United Liberation Movement (ULIMO) would share a seat on the transitional council, while the Charles Taylor's NPFL would also have a seat. The council will also have one member from the Liberia Peace Council (LPC) and two civilian representatives, a source close to the talks said. Traditional chief Tamba Tailor would represent civilians from outside Monrovia, while the civilian all-Liberia National Conference (LNC) would appoint one to represent those inside Monrovia.



A Lancaster bomber drops thousands of red poppies above war veterans gathered in the Mall Saturday as Britain marked the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II. The Victory over Japan Day (VJ Day) event is expected to be Britain's last major war-time remembrance ceremony (Reuters photo)

Britain marks World War II anniversary in solemn mood

LONDON (R) — A lone Lancaster bomber showered a million red poppies in front of Buckingham Palace on Saturday as Britain strove to put bitterness aside in a solemn commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II. Some 25,000 bearded veterans from Britain and its former empire stood proudly for an open-air service of remembrance outside the palace before marching past Queen Elizabeth. "We are not here today to reopen old wounds or to relive past enmities," said the Reverend James Harkness, leader of the Church of Scotland, in the main address. "We have come to give thanks for the end of a conflict that engulfed our world," Rev. Harkness added. Echoing the spirit of reconciliation, the ceremony brought together Prince Charles and his estranged wife Princess Diana, who sat with their children William and Harry in a rare public display of family togetherness. The mood was one of sober reflection in stark contrast to the party spirit of Britain's commemoration in May of the 50th anniversary of the end of the war in Europe. Religious leaders representing China, Africa, India and Britain offered prayers for the dead and spoke of reconciliation but the old war enemies — Japan, Germany and Italy — were never mentioned. After a one-minute silence, a Lancaster bomber flew low over the mall leading to Buckingham Palace and sent red poppies — symbolising the dead of two world wars — cascading over the crowds sitting and standing in front of the royal residence. Queen Elizabeth, her husband Prince Philip, Prince Charles, Princess Diana, Prince Edward and Princess Anne later chatted with the old soldiers, many of whom had been standing for hours in temperatures of about 30 degrees Celsius. The August 15, 1945 anniversary has been marked for many British veterans by what they see as a half-hearted and belated apology by Japan for its war-time actions. Many viewed the landmark public statement on Tuesday by Prime Minister Tomichi Murayama as a personal apology rather than the expression of remorse they were seeking on behalf of the entire nation of Japan. More than 12,000 Britons died in Japanese captivity. "It is difficult, even after all this time, for the wounds to heal and although we respect the Japanese I don't think people like us can ever forgive them," said Arthur Webster of the East Indies fleet. "I was among one of the first to go into Singapore and when you saw walking skeletons covered in what looked like silk stockings you can't forget those things," Mr. Webster told reporters. Prince Philip, who served in the navy during the war, said he understood why many former POWs found it hard to forgive the Japanese. "I think it is very silly to say that these individuals should somehow be reconciled to their captors and their tormentors," he told BBC television in an interview. Six holders of the Victoria Cross and George Cross — Britain's top gallantry awards — marched past the queen at the head of a one-mile (1.6-km) long procession of about 10,000 old soldiers, some in wheelchairs, followed by military vehicles, floats and bands. In an unscheduled appearance, Prince Philip marched with members of the Burma Star Association, rather than standing on the reviewing stand with the queen. Later, the queen was to watch a flypast of Swordfish and Spitfire aircraft and a display by the Red Arrows aerobatics team before a spectacular fireworks show over the River Thames.

Indonesian reaction to burnings of its flag in Australia intensifies

JAKARTA (R) — Burnings of the Indonesian flag in Australia have triggered a call in Jakarta for an import boycott and the ruling party has urged Canberra to act firmly in dealing with the protesters, media reports said on Saturday. Foreign Minister Ali Alatas, quoted by the official Antara news agency, called the burnings in Australia, as well as similar incidents in the Philippines, Spain and New Zealand, "uncivilised acts."

"With their uncivilised acts, they (the protesters) are trying to damage Indonesia's relations with Australia, New Zealand, Spain and the Philippines," he said. The Australian burnings were done in protest against Indonesia's annexation and rule over the former Portuguese colony of East Timor. They coincided with Indonesia's 50th anniversary celebrations.

"We will stop importing from Australia one month from now if all Fretilin members are not expelled from Australia by that time," Amiruddin Saud, head of the Association of Indonesian Importers, was quoted as saying by the Jakarta Post daily. Indonesian forces have been fighting secessionist Fretilin guerrillas in East Timor since the 1975 Indonesian invasion after the Portuguese left. Antara said Indonesia's imports from Australia totalled \$1.5 billion in 1994, while exports were worth \$705 million.

Information Minister Harmoko, speaking as chairman of Indonesia's ruling Golkar Party, called on the Australian government to take stern action against the flag burners. "Golkar is calling on the Australian government to bear responsibility for the flag burning incident which occurred while Indonesia was celebrating the 50th anniversary of its independence," Mr. Harmoko, quoted by Antara, said. "We are asking Australia to bear responsibility based on morality," he added. In another reaction, Indonesia's powerful military said it welcomed a suggestion by Australian Defence Minister Robert Ray that Canberra should ban the burnings of a foreign flag.

"The suggestion is a good one and the Australian government should think about it as it will help ensure Australia's good relations with other countries, which see their national flags as a symbol of dignity," Brigadier-General Suwamo Adiwijoyo, the armed forces spokesman, was quoted as saying by Antara. In Jakarta on Friday, members of an Indonesian government-sanctioned youth movement raised the ante in the row with Australia, tearing, kicking and burning two Australian flags in front of the Australian embassy compound. Following the incident, the Jakarta Post quoted Mr. Alatas as saying: "I completely understand and agree that there is an overflow of anger but it would be better if there were no flag burning... We must show that our nation is more civilised."

Antara, meanwhile, quoted the army's general chief-of-staff, Lieutenant-General Soeyono, as saying the flag burning controversy would not disrupt his plans to visit Australia as scheduled at the end of this month. Ties between the two countries have been strained in recent months by a series of rows, including the withdrawal in July of Jakarta's controversial nomination as ambassador to Canberra after an uproar over comment he had made about East Timor.

Kabul rockets kill 2, wound 9

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Rockets slammed into a western suburb of Afghanistan's war-devastated capital on Saturday killing two people and wounding at least nine others, authorities said. "There were about 40 rockets. It was the will of God that most of them landed in areas already destroyed otherwise more people would have been killed," said Mohammad Bashir, commander of a government post in the area. The government blamed the assault on Taliban fighters, former religious students turned guerrillas. "The rockets came from Taliban positions west of the city," said Mr. Bashir. However it was impossible to confirm who launched the rockets in Saturday's attack, the second in 10 days. Kabul has been relatively peaceful since March 9 when government soldiers pushed their heavily armed opponents out of a firing range of the capital. Taliban fighters have denied attacking the capital and say government soldiers are firing the rockets in an attempt to discredit their group. Entire neighbourhoods of Kabul have been reduced to rubble since Muslim insurgents overran the Afghan capital in 1992 and threw out the old communist regime. Nearly 25,000 people — mostly civilians — have been killed in the violent power struggles between warring Islamic groups. President Burhanuddin Rabbani, who has been in power for more than two years, has refused to step aside. Meanwhile the United Nations is attempting to broker a power sharing arrangement with the 10 main Islamic groups fighting in Afghanistan.

French police halt high level Greenpeace nuke protest

CHAMONIX, France (ap) — French police Saturday seized a gigantic banner Greenpeace activists had unfurled on Mont Blanc, Europe's highest mountain, in protest at France's resumption of nuclear tests in the South Pacific. But French police, who also took down the activists' tent, made no arrests, Chamonix police said. Police on Saturday morning landed by helicopter near the tent and banner, bearing the nuclear symbol struck through with a red cross, put up by six Greenpeace activists Thursday at an altitude of 4,500 metres. Chamonix authorities Friday told Greenpeace its action was illegal, as the protesters had not obtained authorisation for the demonstration, which took place on a protected site. The six activists from the International Environmental Organisation set off on Tuesday with the aim of climbing to the summit, 4,807 metres above sea level, to unfurl their banner, but they were hindered by weather conditions and forced to stop several hundred metres lower.

Sri Lanka Tamil rebels' plan to launch air wing receives setback

COLOMBO (R) — Plans by Tamil Tiger rebels to launch the world's only guerrilla air arm suffered a setback this week when Sri Lankan air force planes bombed an airstrip they had built in the island's north, defence officials said on Saturday. "The Tigers have built two airstrips," a senior military officer told Reuters. "They were very prominent in the aerial photos. We saw signs they were becoming active so we decided to do something about it." A kilometre-long gravel runway in the jungle of Kilinochchi, just south of the rebels' Jaffna Peninsula stronghold in the north, was destroyed by airstrikes on Tuesday, military spokesman Brigadier Sarath Munasinghe told reporters on Thursday. "It will take them some time to rebuild it," he said. The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam rebels, fighting for an independent homeland for minority Tamils in the north and east of the country, built the airstrip to launch microlight aircraft acquired for their fledgling air arm, dubbed the "Air Tigers." The rebels have a naval arm called the "Sea Tigers" that has sunk several navy patrol boats. The air force also bombed a rebel naval facility at Verugal in Eastern Batticaloa, Mr. Munasinghe said. "We think the Tigers will use the microlights for suicide attacks as the machines lack the range to attack and go back," a senior air force officer said. "We have taken all precautions to protect vital installations and airbases from air attacks," he added. The Tigers are suspected of having trained pilots in western countries, he said. The microlights were stolen in France where the Tigers have their propaganda office and an extensive network to raise funds and lobby for their struggle, military sources said. The air force bombed a factory believed to have been assembling microlights near Kilinochchi in August, 1993. Newspapers have quoted intelligence sources as saying the airstrip had been under construction since May and was fortified with nine bunkers on either side of the runway and a network of tunnels serving as emergency exits. The runway was built by rebels engineers, they said. The Tiger air threat has been taken so seriously the military has installed anti-aircraft weapons and radar to protect the residence of Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga. Anti-aircraft guns were also deployed to protect Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao from possible "terrorist aerial attacks" at India's independence day celebrations on Tuesday. Tamil rebels used the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu as a support base for attacks in Sri Lanka during the 1980s, when New Delhi turned a blind eye to their operations. India cracked down on the rebels after accusing a Tiger suicide bomber of assassinating former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in Tamil Nadu in 1991. The Tigers denied any involvement. But the Tigers still maintain a network and are known to have support among extremist Tamils in India. Rebels claim to have killed 1,104 security men. In another development Saturday, Tamil Tiger rebels claimed they had killed 1,104 security personnel in the northeast since hostilities resumed after guerrillas broke a cease-fire on April 19. In a broadcast on their clandestine radio station "Voice of the Tigers," the rebels said 789 soldiers had been killed. The remaining dead included policemen, paramilitary guards, navy sailors, and air force personnel. The broadcast did not say how many rebels had died. The military says more than 900 rebels have been killed in the past four months. Nearly 400 civilians have also died in the fighting.

Sao Tome rebels ready to hand back power

SAO TOME (AFP) — Military officers who staged a coup in the islands of Sao Tome and Principe less than a week ago were ready to hand back power to the ousted civilian government Saturday, pending a guarantee of a general amnesty. Negotiations on a handover of power, mediated by Angola's Foreign Minister Venancio de Moura, were centred Saturday on an amnesty, and military sources said the talks would be over by Monday at the latest. Also under discussion were proposals for constitutional and administrative reform put forward by the coup leaders. On Tuesday, five Sao Tome officers staged a coup d'état and detained President Miguel Trovoada, claiming they could solve the country's development problems better than the elected government. But the rebel officers quickly backed down after the European Union (EU) threatened to halt all development aid to Sao Tome, and their closest onshore neighbour Gabon called for military action to return Trovoada to power. They then accepted an offer from the Angolan government to help restore democracy. Hours after the Angolan mediator arrived in Sao Tome on Friday, Trovoada was moved from the army headquarters, where he had been held since Tuesday, to an official government residence. On Saturday, negotiations between the military and legal institutions resumed on the basis of a six-point document.

Clinton celebrates crime law success

JACKSON, Wyo. (R) — President Bill Clinton on Saturday declared successful a year-old crime law aimed at putting repeat offenders in prison for life and urged Congress to set aside "ideological purity" and get more work done. In his national weekly radio address, delivered where he is vacationing near Grand Teton National Park, Mr. Clinton focused on the case of a 43-year-old Iowa man to prove the "three strikes and you're out" law is working one year after he signed it into law. The Violent Crime Control Act requires life imprisonment without possibility of parole for federal offenders convicted of a serious violent felony after two more federal or state convictions on similar crimes. Mr. Clinton said the Iowa man, Thomas Farmer, had been "a textbook case of what's wrong with our criminal justice system" because "he committed one violent crime after another and each time was paroled long before his sentence was up." But just this week a federal judge in Cedar Rapids sentenced Mr. Farmer to life in prison under the new law after he was found guilty in May of attempted robbery of a food store in October 1994. "Thomas Farmer was the very first career criminal we put away under the 'three strikes and you're out' but he will not be the last," Mr. Clinton said. "Federal prosecutors already have another 16 'three strikes' cases pending around the country, including three convictions that are awaiting sentencing now." The violent crime control act was passed by Congress when it was controlled by Mr. Clinton's Democrats. Now it is controlled by opposition Republicans and the president said it was time Congress got to work on other pressing problems like welfare reform and the anti-terrorism legislation he sent to Capitol Hill in the wake of the April 19 bombing of the federal building in Oklahoma City. "One year ago, we overcame deep partisan differences and bitter partisan opposition to make 'three strikes and you're out' the law of the land. Now it's time for members of Congress to do that again — to put aside demands for ideological purity and people the reforms they want," he said.

President Bill Clinton walks through a field after visiting the Church of the Transfiguration outside Jackson, Ho. where he is now vacationing with his family (Reuters photo)



The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

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Features

JORDAN TIMES, SUNDAY, AUGUST 20, 1995 7

New Balkans plan for war and death

Charlotte Eagar in the Croatian and Bosnian reports on how governments expect to secure peace on the battlefield

THE SPREAD of full-scale war through Bosnia now seems inevitable after the attack launched by the Croats this month against the Krajina Serbs. While statesmen zip from state to state on peace missions, diplomatic sources in the Balkans regard widespread fighting as a foregone conclusion.

"Why should they give up now?" asked one source. "The Croats are on a roll and the Bosnians want to go on. The fall of Krajina has totally changed the balance of power in the Balkans."

The Croatian offensive, which obliterated the self-styled Republic of Serbian Krajina from the maps after five years, has smashed the myth of Serbian military dominance. The sad lines of refugees are putting their fridge-laden tractors all the way to Serbia — rather than staying in Bosnian Serb territory — because they know that, should they stay in Banja Luka, the Serb stronghold in north-western Bosnia, they could face the same trek in six months' time.

"There's a very good chance that Banja Luka could be a frontline town in a few months," said a diplomatic source. "The Serbs lost more territory in three days than is held by the Bosnian government. The Serb lines are hollow vessels. Crack them, and you can walk through. Everybody always goes on about guerrilla warfare in the Balkans but nobody does it. The Serbs built themselves World War I style trenches and sat in them for three years because they are crap soldiers."

Bosnian Serbs now have a vast new length of frontline, all the way along the Croatian border... and their new lines are unfortified. Western Bosnia is there for the taking.

In his newly freed citadel of Bihać, relieved when the Croatian and Bosnian armies fought their way to meet each other after 1,201 days of siege, General Atif Dudakovic, commander of the 5th Corps of the Bosnian Army, was equally apocalyptic about the future.

"I don't know what the other side plans to do but I know we are going to fight," he said grimly. "When the Croats contacted me to tell me that they were going to attack... I am a reserved man but, what can I say? His face cracked, grimacing switching to a smile as shy as a 10-stone general can smile. "First, I shouted, and then I jumped for joy. I think we shall see Banja Luka pretty soon. My soldiers are refugees from Kijuc, from Prijedor, from Banja Luka. I have a lot of men to rehouse... I need a month to feed my men up and train them and then we can go. We've captured a lot of weapons from the Serbs."

Gen. Dudakovic said that the best possible move for the Serbs was signing the Contact Group plan last summer when they would have had more territory than they will end up with. "The Contact Group plan is not an option anymore," he said.

Not signing up was the weakness that lost the Serbs the Krajina. A fortnight ago they could have had it all; if they had agreed to the "24 plan" proffered by the Americans since February, the Krajina Serbs could have had full autonomy within Croatia; their own tax system, currency, schools, even their own flag — but the Serb leadership could not agree among themselves. There have been tens of thousands of



ON THEIR KNEES: An elderly Serb who found sanctuary with the U.N. in Kijac while in the nearby Krajina town of Vrljika a Croat prays at a shattered crucifix.



Serbs in the Krajina for 400 years. Now there are at best only a few hundred. "The Krajina Serbs were split into factions," said a diplomatic source. "We never knew who to deal with. It's the same now with the Bosnian Serbs. Even if we could come up with a plan, who would we take it to?"

The Bosnian Serbs are openly quarrelling. Radovan Karadzic, their leader, may have publicly retracted his denunciation of his military commander, General Ratko Mladic, but the feud is still there and Mr. Karadzic is losing.

Western analysts believe that Mr. Karadzic is on the way out, that he will be lucky to escape with his life. Slobodan Milosevic, the president of Serbia, holds the reins. He has regarded Mr. Karadzic as a rival for two years and is now backing Mr. Mladic. When Carl Bildt, the European Union special envoy to former Yugoslavia, met Mr.

Milosevic in Belgrade a few weeks ago, Mr. Mladic was sitting at Milosevic's side. "The Bosnian Serbs could learn from the Krajina's mistakes," said a source. "But in order to come up with a settlement — a map — they have to be prepared to cede territory. Politically, it may be more expedient to lose that territory through fighting than to sign it away. That way, at least Milosevic can say he gave it his best shot."

The tens of thousands of Krajina Serb refugees driving their tractors into Belgrade will seriously undermine Mr. Milosevic. If he is not careful, he could find himself with 50,000 Bosnian Serb refugees as well and Serbia has a very long history of regicide. They were still defenestrating and eviscerating their loyal family as recently as 1905.

Diplomats are worried that Mr. Milosevic may be forced to take some sort of military action — but so far they regard the Serbian

troop build-ups around Eastern Slavonia, the only part of Croatia the Serbs still control, as just sabre-rattling to keep the critics at bay.

The territory the Serbs may lose first along Croatia, analysts believe the Bosnian army may fight south from Bihać towards Bosansko Grahovo, captured from the Serbs by the Croats two weeks ago, which would link Bihać with the rest of Bosnia.

The Serbs, worse still, have been reduced to press-gang grandfathers from the streets of Belgrade and busying them off to fight. In the gloom of an aircraft hanger at the Bosnian barracks in Bihać, a group of Krajina Serb POWs described how the Serbian police had rounded them up.

"They came to my house near Belgrade on June 21," said Milos, 57. "They put me on a bus and sent me over the border into Bosnia and down to Krajina. I was born in Croatia, but it

wasn't anywhere near Krajina and I've lived in Serbia for years. I'm a clerk in a company. I was due to retire on July 15.

"Recently our commanders just ran away. We lost radio contact. We didn't know what to do so we decided to look for someone to surrender to."

"I'm not going to fight for the Bosnian Serbs, whatever happens," said another. The others growled in agreement. "The average age of our unit is 55."

Croatian government sources admit that it is in their interest to knock the Serbs back from the parts of Bosnia which sit on their borders. Croatian sources also say that they would probably provide the Bosnians with artillery and tank support, and let the Bosnian infantry do the fighting.

That is a much less risky strategy than allowing the Bosnians to get weapons

themselves: the Croats would like to keep the Bosnians sweet and dependent. The map Anthony Lake, U.S. national security adviser, is touting around European capitals today, puts down on paper something the Croats have been pondering for a long time. This map maintains Bosnia within its international borders, with territory split roughly 50-50 between Bosnian Serbs and the Muslim-Croat Federation, with the Serbs and the Federation having equal rights to confederate with neighbouring states.

The Serbs would get to keep eastern Bosnia, including the former "safe areas" of Srebrenica and Zepa which they gobbled up in July, and would swap the still-Muslim held enclave of Gorazde for Serb lands around Sarajevo.

"That gives us some sort of Greater Croatia," said Croatian government sources. "Really it is a kind of alliance, a sort of western Yugoslavia with Croatia as the dominant partner."

"The problem," said a diplomat, "is that Lake's map effectively sanctions 'ethnic cleansing.' But we have to ask some really hard questions about reality here. Are we going to reverse ethnic cleansing by force? No." Keeping eastern Bosnia could keep Mr. Milosevic in power and he would do well to sign for that. The Bosnian army, however, may be prepared to reverse ethnic cleansing by force. Greater Serbia could be shrunk back within the borders of Serbia itself.

At the moment, ethnic maps are being remade on the ground faster than the cartographers can work. The Serb refugees from Krajina have already started kicking out Muslims and Croats from their homes, both in Banja Luka and in Serbia itself, says the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Mr. Milosevic is already talking of resettling some of the refugees in Kosovo, a Serbian province with a 90 per cent ethnic Albanian population, which has suffered severe repression from Belgrade for the past decade and wishes to secede to join Albania.

The Albanian government has protested and U.N. sources in the area say that, within 72 hours of the first Serb refugees arriving in Kosovo, they would expect civil unrest. It could be that the Croat conquest of Krajina not only spreads the war to Bosnia, but sets the dominoes tumbling for war in the southern Balkans as well.

The Observer

Musa expected here tomorrow

Mines kill peace envoys

(Continued from page 1)

the government attempted anew to assure Jordanians that is under no pressure to turn the tables against Iraq and that the Kingdom's policies are dictated by its interests.

"While media reports emanating from the U.S. capital have spoken of pressure being exerted on Jordan to cut its economic and trade ties with Iraq, the government would like to affirm that no such pressure has been exerted," said the government statement. On Friday the government made no comments on the reports about Mr. Pelletreau's mission.

It only said that the meeting with the American official dealt with the Middle East economic summit which American will host in October.

Also seeking to assert the sovereignty of its decisions, the government said in the statement that no changes had been made to its policies on Iraq.

Iraq gives U.N. more data

(Continued from page 1)

Friday it was moving forward joint exercises to discourage menacing moves by Iraq against Kuwait or Jordan.

The manoeuvres involving about 1,400 U.S. troops would now start in Kuwait around the end of August.

In London, an Iraqi opposition leader said opposition forces would take military action following the defections.

Ahmad Chalabi, head of the Iraqi National Congress, said an umbrella opposition grouping, said late on Friday.

"We are going to heighten our military pressure on Saddam. We are going to work to get rid of him. We had military operations in March against (him) and we will continue to have actions against him in Baghdad."

Mr. Zifferero of the IAEA said meanwhile the information provided by Iraq was related to the period from August, 1990, when Iraqi troops invaded Kuwait, to April 1991, when Iraq accepted a key U.N. resolution demanding the scrapping of its weapons of mass destruction.

Musa expected here tomorrow

(Continued from page 1)

talks here are expected to be the situation in Iraq and the Middle East and the impact of the defection of Iraqi Minister of Industry Hussein Kamel Hassan Al Majid, a son-in-law of President Saddam Hussein.

It was not known whether Mr. Musa or Prince Saud would seek a meeting with Lieutenant-General Hassan. Political observers believe that Egypt would extend an invitation to Gen. Hassan and offer him asylum and facilities to mount anti-Saddam political activities.

Several Arab dissident groups, notably from Libya and Sudan, are based in Egypt, but no anti-Saddam faction has set up base in Egyptian territory.

PLO sees self-rule agreement

(Continued from page 1)

cision at the leadership level," he said.

Israeli chief negotiator Uri Savir told Israel's army radio the two sides would try to reach a full agreement as possible by the end of next week, but finally PLO leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres would have to meet to solve the toughest problems.

A senior Palestinian police commander said Saturday, PNA security forces will not allow militants to wreck the peace agreement with Israel, even if a showdown will cost lives.

Mines kill peace envoys

(Continued from page 1)

mic sanctions against Serbia and Yugoslavia and provide international aid to rebuild Bosnia. If any side refuses to participate, the plan would allow arms sales to its enemies.

The delegation already travelled to Serbia and Croatia to promote the initiative.

Bosnia had unveiled its own plan on the eve of Mr. Holbrooke's arrival. This plan included points believed at the core of the U.S. initiative: Mutual recognition between Croatia, Serbia and Bosnia and a division of Bosnia between the Muslim-led government and the Serb rebels.

Ekeus to meet Iraqi defector

(Continued from page 1)

talks about Iraq's weapons programme were started during the visit. He said his team was in the process of assessing the new information it has received.

Asked whether Baghdad's new cooperative spirit was prompted by Gen. Hassan's defection, Mr. Ekeus told reporters: "I don't want to look a gift horse in the mouth. I don't want to debate their (the Iraqis') motives."

The United Nations has said it will not end the sanctions on Iraq until Mr. Ekeus reports that his mission was complete and successful.

Ekeus to meet Iraqi defector

(Continued from page 1)

a press conference in Amman on Aug. 12 that he will cooperate with Arab and international parties to help bring an end to the suffering of the Iraqi people and a change in the Iraqi regime.

The prospects of Gen. Hassan using Jordan as a forum to reveal Iraqi secrets to foreign parties have produced a foray of anger and warning among Jordanian parliamentarians. But Gen. Hassan, who has had no reported activity since his Aug. 12 press conference, also said that he would not divulge secrets that could harm Iraqi interests.

Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker has affirmed to parliamentarians that Jordan would not allow Gen. Hassan to reveal information that could harm Iraq's national interests.

Gen. Hassan said in

U.S. trade gap worsens

WASHINGTON (AP) — America's trade deficit widened to \$11.4 billion in June, the second-worst showing on record. Weakness in U.S. exports and another rise in the nation's foreign oil bill offset falling demand for imported cars.

Through the first six months of this year, the Commerce Department reported Friday, the trade deficit in merchandise alone is running at an annual rate of \$188 billion. The previous all-time high of \$166 billion was set last year.

The Clinton administration insisted that the deficit would soon start shrinking, but some economists worried that the dollar's recent rise could make it even harder to cure America's chronic trade problems.

The Commerce Department said the monthly deficit in goods and services was 2.4 per cent higher than a revised May imbalance of \$11.04 billion. It was the largest trade gap since a record deficit of \$11.42 billion set in April.

The new report caught economists by surprise. They had been expecting the deficit to narrow as a slowing U.S. economy cut into demand for foreign products.

Imports, which had hit an all-time high in May, did backslide slightly, dropping by 0.6 per cent. But exports, also at a record high in May, fell at double that pace, 1.2 per cent.

In a separate report, the Labour Department said the number of Americans filing first-time claims for unemployment benefits edged up by 6,000 last week to 338,000. Analysts predicted claims would drift higher in coming

weeks as the economy remains sluggish.

The decrease in trade imports reflected a big drop of \$354 million in shipments of foreign cars and parts and a \$367 million decline in demand for other consumer goods such as toys and televisions.

On the export side, U.S. sales abroad of autos were also down for the month, falling by \$548 million, while big-ticket exports such as aircraft engines and factory machinery fell by \$281 million.

"I think in the next few months we will begin to see an improvement in the merchandise trade balance," said U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor.

Mr. Kantor noted that U.S. export growth, despite sluggish economies overseas, had remained strong this year, up by 15.9 per cent over the same period in 1994.

The trade gap has widened, however, because import growth has been even stronger, climbing by 17.4 per cent in the first six months of this year.

The worsening trade performance represents a major political headache for President Clinton, who has emphasised trade as a top priority of his foreign policy.

Gordon Richards, chief economist at the National Association of Manufacturers, called recent administration dollar-buying efforts to support the U.S. currency "precisely the wrong policy.... Sustaining the current expansion is dependent on export growth, and to this end, a lower dollar is absolutely essential."

Despite a number of market-opening trade

agreements with Japan and other nations, the deficit has continued to climb, giving ammunition to critics who charge the administration's trade strategy is a failure.

The deficit with Japan did shrink for a third straight month in June, dropping by 3.7 per cent to \$5.29 billion. U.S. exports to Japan climbed to the second-highest level on record while American imports of Japanese cars dropped.

But critics said part of the improvement reflected the bruising auto trade fight, which disrupted shipments of Japanese luxury cars until the threat of punitive U.S. tariffs was lifted on June 28. They said the imbalance with Japan still remained the highest for any country and was symptomatic of closed markets throughout Asia.

The deficit with China jumped 5.6 per cent in June to \$3 billion.

"We have huge and persistent trade deficits with Japan, China and other countries in South East Asia that reflect underlying structural problems," said Lawrence Chimerine with the Economic Strategy Institute in Washington. "Clearly we are going to hit a record deficit this year by a big margin."

The U.S. deficit with Mexico climbed to \$1.65 billion in June, reflecting the continued fallout from Mexico's currency crisis, which is turning what had been consistent surpluses into big deficits.

Adding to U.S. trade problems is a growing dependence on foreign oil. The bill for imported oil climbed to \$5.09 billion, highest level in 11 months, although the price per barrel declined slightly to \$16.81.

Study: Deregulation offers huge potential for cable phone services

LONDON (AFP) — Deregulation of the European telecommunications market could offer hugely profitable opportunities for cable operators to provide telephone services, according to a study published in London.

From here until the year 2005, the launch of European-wide cable telephone services could result in 25 million new lines and yield profits of \$9.7 billion, creating up to 200,000 jobs, the British Cable Communications Association (CCA) claimed.

Currently, only in Britain are cable operators allowed to offer telephone services.

"Europe is now at a crucial point in the process of telecommunications liberalisation," said CCA chief executive Richard Woolam.

"The 1998 deadline set by the European Commission for the deregulation of the sector presents the European cable industry with a perfect opportunity to offer competition to millions of telephone users," he pointed out.

These huge potential revenues for cable operators, in Woolam's view, justify the \$98 billion in infrastructure investments that would be required.

But he warned that unless countries across Europe introduced the appropriate regulatory regime, "none of this can be realised."

According to CCA, profits from "traditional" cable activities such as pay-as-you-watch channels offering films and sport will double in the next ten years to \$26.2 billion, with the number of European television cable subscribers rising by 40 per cent to 56 million.

Total profits of cable operators will increase from \$7.5 billion in 1995 to \$26.2 billion in 2005, according to the study.

The CCA is due to host an international cable communications conference in London from Oct. 23 to 25.

Brazil to embark on \$35b telecommunications overhaul

SAO PAULO (AFP) — Brazil has opened the doors to private investment in telecommunications for the first time in 25 years, leaving it to local and foreign investors to provide the \$35 billion needed to modernise its phone system.

With a telephone network of some 12 million lines — or 8.3 telephones per 100 inhabitants — and 13 million lines short of satisfying current demand, Brazil is the least equipped country of Latin America.

Once one of the most advanced countries of the continent, Brazil is today ranked 10th in the region in terms of telephones per capita and 43rd in the world.

According to the latest statistics from the International Telecommunications Union, Brazil is behind Puerto Rico with 28 phones per 100 inhabitants; Uruguay with 26; Costa Rica with 14; Argentina with 13; Chile and Mexico 10; Venezuela, Colombia and Panama 9.

Communications Minister Sergio Motta estimates that Brazil needs to invest between \$30 and \$35 billion by

the year 2000. Mr. Motta's ambitious goal is to provide Brazil with 11 million telephone lines by the end of 1999.

In a report calling for the break-up of the state telephone monopoly, Jose Antonio de Alencastro e Silva, former president of Telebras, charged that the state has turned having a telephone into a privilege.

Only one in five urban households, 53 per cent of businesses, and two per cent of rural properties have telephones, he explained, stressing that these "shocking inequalities" put Brazil below the world average of 11.38 telephones per 100 inhabitants, and below the Latin American average of 8.9.

According to Mr. Alencastro e Silva, it will take \$75 billion to modernise by the year 2,000 a telephone system that has become "precious, obsolete and insufficient as a result of 20 years of monopoly."

During that period, Telebras invested 62 per cent of its earnings, or \$55 billion.

Mr. Motta proposed a three-stage plan which would

begin by leaving to the private sector data transmission and the development of cellular telephones.

There are 690,000 people on a waiting list for cellular telephones, 600,000 of them in Sao Paulo alone. The Swedish manufacturer Ericsson estimates the cellular market in Sao Paulo at five million units.

The second phase of Mr. Motta's plan involves creating a new tariff structure. Under the current tariff structure, cheap local service is subsidised with highly expensive international service.

It costs \$6.13 to call the United States from Brazil for three minutes, compared to only \$2.58 for a three minute call to Brazil from the U.S.

It costs even more to call neighbouring Argentina, at \$6.6. The average call to Europe is between \$7 and \$8 for three minutes, and it costs \$10 for a three minute call to Japan.

Monthly rates are ridiculously low at 65 U.S. cents. That buys 90 units of three minutes each, making the cost of an intercity call about \$0.07.

British unemployment rises for first time in two years

LONDON (AFP) — British unemployment rose for the first time in nearly two years in July, prompting a wave of criticism of government policy from opposition parties and trade union officials.

The number of people out of work in Britain rose by 1,700 in July from the figure in June of 2,315 million, or 8.3 per cent of the workforce, figures released by the Central Statistical Office (CSO) have shown.

This rise in the jobless total, the first after 22 consecutive falls since August 1993, was seized on by the opposition Labour Party as proof of the dire economic prospects now facing the country.

Labour's employment spokesman Ian McCartney said: "Today's claimant count figures are just the tip

of the iceberg of this Tory government-induced economic disaster. Insecurity has spread like a plague across every part of the U.K. and is holding back any prospect of lasting economic recovery."

Meanwhile, the general secretary of the main TUC trade union umbrella organisation, John Monks, damned the jobless figures as "depressing" and attacked the government for encouraging a hire-and-fire strategy among employers.

"Instead, the government must invest in jobs and training and take urgent steps to end the plague of job insecurity," he said.

Last month a survey by the CBI employers' organisation said that manufacturing production is now rising at its slowest rate for 15 months.

and the level of business confidence was at its lowest point since October 1992.

And GDP statistics showed that annual growth had slowed to 2.9 per cent in the second quarter from 3.8 per cent in the first three months of the year.

But analysts in the City of London were divided over whether July's rise in the number of jobless merely represented a temporary blip or the beginning of a new trend of rising unemployment.

Chemical Bank analyst Malcolm Barr said he expected to see a continued rise in the number of unemployed during the remainder of the year, at a monthly rate of between 10,000 and 20,000.

The July rise "was not a freak," he said, pointing out that since last December the monthly fall in the jobless total has steadily declined from over 50,000 to around 4,000 for the past two months.

Mr. Barr dismissed as "ambiguous" the argument

put forward by the Department of Education and Employment that these unemployment figures were "erratic" due to a large number of students joining the ranks of the jobless after leaving university.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, AUGUST 20, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Wright Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) An ideal day to do something thoughtful for persons who mean much in your life. Gentility is the keynote now for an easy way to avoid an argument.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 21) Putting things in order around you is wise in the morning. Then extend special favours to those who have been most loyal and helpful to you.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You are able to get into the inexpensive pleasure that you enjoy with friends. Control your temper with a person whose ideas you do not like.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Supporting your family in their ideas is good and also makes a good impression on others. Take it easy tonight and take some time for yourself.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) An ideal day for reading which you have put off. Also, converse with persons of wisdom and integrity. Relatives and friends are apt to be irritable, so avoid them for the time being.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Try not to spend foolishly today just to please selfish people. Show good reasoning powers on whatever may arise. Evening is ideal for some interesting reading.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You are feeling limited and dull today, so go to an amusement or recreation or see an inspiring picture on TV. Or go to a play and have some good fun this evening.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) A friend acts in a strange fashion, but it is not your fault so be patient and kind. Join in group activities this evening and avoid possible trouble.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Showing good judgement with persons who have power over your affairs is wise today. Plan how to be more influential in your community.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Visit with the most high-minded people you know and make this an inspiring day, whether it be in spiritual, scientific, or business community.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Being sure to use good judgement is important since your hunches are not good at this time.

Birthstone of August: Peridot — Golden Quartz

ILO official: Employment not growing fast enough in Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Employment has not been keeping pace with economic growth in the Philippines, and more labour-intensive industry is needed, an official of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) has said.

Richard Szal, director of the ILO in the Philippines, also said unemployment could push labour unions to create political pressure on the government to create more jobs.

Mr. Szal said the govern-

ment's target of one million jobs yearly for the next five years is not enough to meet the country's employment needs and its growing population of 68 million.

Unemployment has grown to 10.4 per cent in this year's first half from 9.9 per cent in January-June 1994, Mr. Szal told members of the Foreign Correspondents' Association of the Philippines.

"You can create a lot of political pressure in the country when you have unemploy-

ment," he said. "I wouldn't want to go so far as to say that political unrest will result from this, but I would say that you are going to hear a lot more from the trade unions."

At the rate unemployment is growing, the government's target of 6.3 per cent unemployment by 1998, when President Fidel Ramos' term expires, will not be met and the goal of full employment two years hence "may even be more elusive," he added.

THE Daily Crossword by Lyell Rodieck

ACROSS	1 King or queen	5 Sedate	10 Aspen conveyance	14 Hash	15 Type of lily	16 Therefore	17 Comedienne at the Apollo Theatre	19 Army gp.	20 Buzzer	21 Sole	22 Spanish community	24 Location	25 Mail man?	26 Prayer aid	29 Chest lining	30 Scent	31 Bleak	32 Big —	35 Comic Kaplan	36 Earthenware vessel	37 Talented	38 They run on the Loop	39 Ancient remains	40 City in Idaho	41 Frozen spike	43 Coined	44 Kind of thinking	46 Ignoble	47 Regard	48 Continental prefix	49 Flowery necklace	52 "Peekaboo, — you"	53 Certain musical group	56 Lie in wait	57 Muse of mime	58 Muddy the waters	59 Minus	60 City on the Seine	61 Formerly
DOWN	1 Honey or curry end	2 Lotion ingredient	3 Frost	4 John — Passos	5 Meager	6 Temporarily put aside	7 Partner	8 — de France	9 Dawn	10 Fear	11 Harris character	12 Farming student	13 Helicopter assembly	18 Dancer Shearer	23 River between China and Russia	24 Identical	25 Baldwin and Waugh	26 Fad	27 Type of surgeon	28 Sentimental journalists	29 Inclined	31 Practice	33 Otherwise	34 Want	36 Vegetable	37 First-rate	39 Rampant	40 A bovine	42 Rosy facial features	43 Strand	44 Composer Kurt	45 Publish	46 Western hill	48 Jacob's twin	49 Diving bird	50 Heroic	51 — of Pines	54 Conquistador's quest	55 Expert

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Yesterday's puzzle solved:

HASH	ALMS	SPAT
ORCUS	DEEP	HEBE
FRONT	MOTO	ANAT
FORTY	NINER	NCO
AWE	LOTI	TOCSIN
DEO	DRYROT	
ABLE	SOSO	CRAMP
BEEFIER	SCATTER	
EATEN	AREA	EELY
TANGLE	CLX	
TSETSE	DAHL	MIA
QAR	NEWZEALAND	
PUMA	EMIT	MANGO
ADAR	VINE	ASTOR
ZING	ALEC	HATE

THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



JUMBLE

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ELCHE	
GADEA	
LIFUT	
REVAB	

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argleton

Peanuts

Andy Capp

Mutt'n' Jeff

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HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR
AUGUST 20, 1995

By Thomas S. P.
Astrologer, Cam
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LEO: (July 22 to Aug
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SCORPIO: (October 23
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CAPRICORN: (Decem
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AQUARIUS: (January 21
February 19) Visit
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ness community.

PISCES: (February 20
March 20) Being
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Birthstone of Aug
dot — Golden Qu

business daily beat

A review
of economic news
from the Arabic press

Municipal councils owe cities and villages bank JD 41.8m

THE CITIES and Villages Development Bank (CVDB) lent JD 2.4 million during the first six months of this year. CVDB General Manager Zuhair Khalifeh said 35 per cent of the credits benefited Zarqa governorate, 22 per cent went to Irbid governorate, 16 per cent to Balqa Governorate and the rest was lent to other regions. Benefiting of these loans were also 35 municipalities and 11 village councils in addition to five productive projects which accounted for 46 per cent of the loans. Asphalting roads accounted for 34 per cent of the loans while 6.5 per cent went for purchases of vehicles and equipment. Dr. Khalifeh said that as of June 30, 1995, municipal councils had a total indebtedness of JD 41.8 million to the bank.

The CVDB chief urged the municipalities to focus on collecting their dues from the public, as there were large uncollected amounts. He stressed that the bank will concentrate on extending loans to the municipalities for productive projects in the coming stage in addition to financing infrastructure schemes such as public buildings and roads, especially for new municipalities. The bank has opened a branch in Karak to facilitate its activities in the southern regions and, within this drive, is now considering opening two more branches, one in Mafrq and the other in Maan. Dr. Khalifeh said the CVDB intends to open branches in all the governorates during this year and 1996 (Al Dustour).

THE PRICE of Tunisian olive oil imported by the Ministry of Supply has been reduced from JD 8.000 to JD 6.750 per can for 4.375 kilograms (Al Ra'i).

SINCE the collapse of a five-storey building in Jabal Nazzal last October, about 200 construction companies have joined the Contractors' Association. Mohammed Murad, head of the association, said the number of members now stand at 1,435, having a total capital of JD 145 million. He said that the contracting sector employs about 60,000 workers and that it has an 18 per cent share in the gross domestic product (Al Ra'i).

THE JORDAN-Danish Dairy Company clarified in a statement that only one unit of its plant was shut until a filter is installed and not the whole factory as has been erroneously reported last week (Al Dustour).

IN ORDER to organise areas that can be used as quarries, stone crushers and cutters as well as asphalt mixers, the Natural Resources Authorities has specified two areas. The first is located between Wadi Al Qattar and Wadi Al 'Ish, in the Amman Governorate, and can serve about 60 quarries for the next 50 years. The second location is at Al Hallabat in Zarqa Governorate. The authority has chosen a suitable location for quarries in Irbid and an approval is being sought from the Cabinet to proceed into organising the area. With regard to Ajloun, the authority has stopped more than 30 quarries operating illegally in that area and the situation is being reviewed by the Cabinet to find a suitable solution for these quarries. According to the head of the authority, organising the locations of the quarries has ended 90 per cent of the chronic problems of the past 30 years. However, work will continue on finding suitable and permanent quarries in the remaining governorates, he said (Al Ra'i).

Rank to invest \$400m in new Florida theme park with MCA

LONDON (AFP) — British leisure group Rank Organisation has announced it will invest around \$400 million in a vast new Florida theme park venture in partnership with U.S. entertainment company MCA.

Rank and MCA, a subsidiary of Seagram, have agreed to invest jointly \$2 billion in the development of a resort called Universal City Florida (ICF), in Orlando, Florida, scheduled to open by summer 1999.

Rank will pay for its share from cash raised through sale of its 40 per cent stake in Rank Xerox earlier this year, and a consortium of banks has agreed to provide \$1.2 billion of financing.

The two companies already jointly own the movie-based theme park Universal Studios Florida (USF), also located in Orlando, which is operated by MCA.

This new resort will contain a theme park Universal's Island of Adventures, consisting of five theme-based islands including one inspired by the film, Jurassic Park, and an entertainment zone with restaurants, shops and a cinema. Construction of four hotels is also planned.

"The investment in UCF represents a further commitment to a proven and profitable part of Rank's leisure interests," the U.K. group said in a statement released in London.

USF cost around \$960 million to build, of which Rank contributed \$273 million. Since its opening in 1990, the film theme park has generated \$375 million in net cash flow.

Rank cited an independent study predicting annual paid admissions at the Islands of Adventures would exceed the 6.4 million admissions at USF last year, "due to its larger capacity and wider demographic appeal."

The U.K. leisure group added that the increasing attractions of Orlando as a leisure destination provided "an accelerating demand" for new theme parks such as UCF.

Fokker fights for survival

AMSTERDAM (R) — Dutch aircraft maker Fokker N.V. said Friday it could pull operations out of the Netherlands in a desperate bid to survive, while its shares crashed to an all-time low on fears that it might be in a terminal dive.

Fokker shares fell more than 25 per cent to six guilders after it was forced into a humiliating public assurance on Thursday that Germany's Deutsche Aerospace (DASA) would honour its debts.

The Daimler-Benz subsidiary owns 51 per cent of the Dutch group.

Fokker, whose shares were suspended for more than two hours Thursday by the Amsterdam Stock Exchange, is racing to complete a business plan in the next two weeks, which it hopes will persuade the Dutch government to come to its rescue.

Fokker spokesman Leo Steijn said relocating to a low-wage, dollar-based country was one of the long-term options being considered as part of a package to keep the firm alive.

Dubbed the "dolores" plan — for dollar low rescue — it could also include changing the terms of contracts with Fokker's suppliers to pay them in dollars.

"Dolores is a DASA plan, in which Fokker is involved, where we study ways to shield ourselves from dollar changes," said Mr. Steijn, adding that the plan should be ready by early October.

Fokker — the world's largest regional plane maker — has been hit by record first-half losses after poor markets and the collapse of the dollar to historic lows against the guilder wrecked its earnings.

The company is highly vulnerable to currency changes because it sells aircraft for dollars but its costs for building them are in guilders.

"Market prices fell because of economic recession. We were getting fewer dollars per aircraft and fewer guilders per dollar. That's it in a nutshell," Mr. Steijn told Reuters.

Fokker reported a loss of 651 million guilders (\$401 million) for the first half of

the year Tuesday, almost wiping out shareholders' equity.

Mr. Steijn said one part of the plan would be the sale of Fokker's 1.3 billion guilder (\$800 million) aircraft leasing operation to a Daimler subsidiary called Debis, easing pressure on Fokker's balance sheet.

Creative solutions — like asking suppliers to bear currency risks alongside Fokker — would help the firm ride out current financial problems and seize growing business opportunities.

"The market has huge potential and business is definitely growing," Mr. Steijn said. Airlines postponed purchases in the recession but were now finally talking business.

"We need to be in a good financial shape to take advantage of these opportunities," he said.

But he added that it was still too early to give further details about the package to be put before the Dutch government, which has already coughed up millions of taxpayers' guilders to keep the company afloat and keep Dutch jobs.

3 Senior Jordanian Consultants Required

International firm requires the services of senior Jordanian specialists for short term assignments (one to three months) to prepare design specifications and supervise construction for industrial wastewater treatment projects, in Jordan. All applicants must have a minimum of 10 years professional experience and fluent in English.

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Civil Engineer:
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- Management experience in environmental Project
- Experience in construction and operating of wastewater treatment systems
- Experience in detail design and tender document preparations.

Electrical Engineer:
- BSc Degree from accredited university
- Experience in preparation of shop drawings of electrical units for wastewater treatment systems
- Experience in installation and maintenance of electrical units for wastewater treatment systems

Send resume by 30 August, 1995 to:
P.O. Box 851532
AL-Suwifiyah 11185
Amman
Attn: Ruba Hattar

Sudan asks African Development Bank for more funds for industry

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan has asked the African Development Bank (ABD) for more funds to help it rehabilitate its industry, a senior official said Saturday.

Al Saeed Osman Mahjoub, director general of the state El Nilein Bank Group for Industrial Development, told the official Sudan News Agency (SUNA) that his country needed at least \$150 million to boost the industrial sector over the next three to four years.

Sudan's factories operate at a tiny fraction of their capacity due to lack of hard currency to import raw materials and spare parts, a shortage of electricity, high labour turnover, rising cost of inputs and marketing difficulties.

Mr. Mahjoub said the Abidjan-based bank had recently lent his corporation \$16 million to boost textile and packaging factories and flour mills in Sudan.

He said his group had urged the ABD to give it more funds to finance other industrial projects such as those involving edible oil, soap, medicines, chemicals and building materials.

Sudan has drawn loans from ABD worth \$38 million for sugar growing, irrigation and petroleum projects.

A Sudanese minister said recently that Khartoum's relations with the ABD had returned to normal since May.

ABDAN FINANCIAL MARKET
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TELEPHONE: 407111 / 607179
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SATURDAY 19/08/1995

COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	VALUE	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	NEW CLOSING PRICE
ARAB BANK P.C.	260	57285	220.500	219.500
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	822	3739	4.550	4.550
BANK OF JORDAN	2221	7550	3.400	3.400
HIDRA EAST INVESTMENT BANK	17876	21765	1.260	1.260
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	220	2300	2.550	2.500
JORDAN KWAIT BANK	490	1371	2.800	2.810
JORDAN GULF BANK	51050	58709	1.180	1.180
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	5778	21832	3.780	3.770
UNION BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT	234	974	4.280	4.150
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	694	2809	4.050	4.050
ARAB BANK FOR INVESTMENT	46195	48965	1.060	1.060
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	8800	8999	1.630	1.610
BANKS SECTOR	131216	235045	INDEX NUMBER: 131.14	CHANGE: -0.37%
JORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE	4132	11212	2.700	2.700
JORDAN GULF INSURANCE	150	435	2.900	2.900
AL-NISR AL-ARABI INSURANCE	4033	17140	4.250	4.250
INSURANCE SECTOR	8315	28787	INDEX NUMBER: 132.33	CHANGE: 0.00%
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	14253	23161	1.630	1.620
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	400	1400	3.500	3.500
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	1250	2788	2.240	2.230
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER	250	298	1.180	1.190
ARAB INTER. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	1200	3816	3.240	3.180
ARAB PRIVATE UNIVERSITY	7800	10630	1.390	1.380
SERVICES SECTOR	25353	42092	INDEX NUMBER: 127.31	CHANGE: -0.53%
JORDAN TOBACCO & CIGARETTES	84	3024	24.600	24.100
JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	3636	13311	3.700	3.650
JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES	517	1676	3.050	3.050
THE ARAB POTASH	5000	25000	4.890	5.000
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	1214	11543	9.500	9.300
JORDAN TANNING	533	4104	8.000	7.700
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	100	340	3.400	3.400
THE JORDAN WOODSTOCK MILLS	80	377	7.840	7.540
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	30609	30609	1.020	1.030
JORDAN CEMENT INDUSTRIES	300	1800	6.000	6.000
JORDAN DAIRY	500	1250	2.400	2.500
THE JORDAN PAPER MANUFACTURING	550	1292	2.550	2.530
DAR AL-DABA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	5500	42900	7.890	7.800
ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	8980	4408	2.950	2.740
ARAB ALUMINUM INDUSTRY	1300	6972	5.350	5.380
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	62750	30120	.490	.480
NATIONAL INDUSTRIES	450	635	1.410	1.410
INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	5380	5467	1.020	1.030
JORDAN SULPHO-CHEMICALS	450	702	1.610	1.560
ARAB CENTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS	1150	2461	2.120	2.140
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	690	2330	3.380	3.380
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	7450	15428	2.080	2.060
JORDAN NEW CABLE COMPANY	4100	7252	1.770	1.750
INTERNATIONAL TOBACCO & CIGARETTES	6200	8653	1.410	1.380
UNION CHEMICAL & VEGETABLE OIL INDUSTRY	28086	57657	2.070	2.060
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR	150409	283984	INDEX NUMBER: 127.96	CHANGE: -0.61%
GRAND TOTAL	315293	589909	INDEX NUMBER: 154.84	CHANGE: -0.45%

NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET : 277370
VALUE TRADED IN PARALLEL MARKET : 327954

JORDAN MARKET PLACE

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A high-contrast, black and white photograph of a person in a dynamic pose, possibly a dancer or athlete, against a dark background with horizontal light bands. The person is in the foreground, wearing a light-colored, patterned garment. The background is dark with several horizontal, bright light bands, suggesting a stage or a specific lighting setup. The overall style is grainy and artistic.

A high-contrast, black and white photograph of a man from the chest up. He is wearing a plaid shirt with a dark and light pattern. He has short, dark hair and is looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression. The background is dark and textured, possibly a wall or a backdrop. The lighting is harsh, creating deep shadows and bright highlights on his face and shirt.

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Probe into Paris blasts focuses on Algerians

Similarities seen between two explosions that rocked French capital in one month

PARIS (Agencies) — Struck by "an air of déjà-vu" between the two bombings that have rocked Paris this summer, authorities on Saturday focused on Algerian extremists.

The French radio station RTL said Saturday that a caller speaking in the name of the "GIA General Command" claimed responsibility for Thursday's attack that wounded 17 people near the ARC de Triomphe.

Police sources said they could not authenticate that claim but were taking it seriously. For the first time, they disclosed that the station had received two similar claims after the July 25 bombing that killed seven people and wounded 84 others in a Paris subway.

The "GIA General Command" is a new name in Algeria's 3½-year-old civil war. Authorities speculate that it might be an offshoot of the extremist Armed Islamic Group, known by its French initials GIA, which is trying to topple the military-backed Algerian government.

Interior Minister Jean-Louis Debré said there was "a certain number of troubling elements" in common with the July 25 explosion on a commuter train in the heart of Paris' Left Bank.

Thursday's bomb planted in a rubbish bin injured 17, including three seriously. The July attack claimed seven lives and injured more than 80.

"There were gas canisters (packed with explosives) in both cases, similar types of explosives, symbolic locations, identical times of day," Mr. Debré said, but added that it was too early to say precisely whether the same

group was behind both attacks.

"I do not wish to rule out the possibility of other attacks," Mr. Debré said, fuelling fears of a wave of attacks, similar to those that shook France in the 1980s.

Then, a total of 13 people were killed and more than 300 were injured in two waves of attacks linked with events in the Middle East.

Paris is on full alert, with an extra 1,200 police called in since Thursday, bringing the force up to 17,200, and security intensified around major tourism venues.

But popular French newspaper France-Soir called ensuring total security in the capital a "mission impossible." It illustrated the point with photographs of a reporter succeeding in planting a make-believe bomb in a rubbish bin in a Paris underground station Friday, even though most such bins have been hermetically sealed.

The reporter was not stopped by security forces. "We cannot place policemen behind every trash bin," said Francoise Rudetsky, president of SOS Attentats, an aid group that helps victims of terrorist attacks, herself a victim of a 1986 bomb blast.

Investigators Saturday said they were taking seriously evidence given by a youth on a bicycle who said he saw two men putting a package in a trash bin, with some difficulty, just before Thursday's blast.

The witness said he had described their appearance to police, who drew up sketches. Police did not comment on the men's appearance or confirm that sketches had

been drawn.

Investigators have determined the gas canister stuffed with nails and bolts that exploded Thursday was purchased in Belgium, as was a similar canister used in the train attack in July.

According to initial investigations, the explosive used in Thursday's attack included chlorate. Police were unable to determine the type of explosive used in the subway bombing but suspect it was also chlorate-based.

Authorities believe the bombers are the assassins who shot to death the elderly co-founder of the Islamic Salvation Front at a Paris mosque on July 11, the French daily Le Monde reported Saturday, citing unidentified police sources.

The slain imam, Abdul Baki Sahraoui, was at odds with the GIA, which reportedly had put his name on a death threat list in May.

Both groups are fighting for strict Islamic rule in Algeria and are angry at France for supporting the government in its former colony.

GIA has threatened attacks on French soil, making it a prime suspect in both bombings and in the assassination, the newspaper Le Figaro reported Saturday, also citing unnamed investigators.

"There's an air of déjà-vu" among authorities probing the attacks, an investigator told the French daily Liberation.

Algerian newspapers on Saturday also blamed Islamic insurgents for the latest bombing. "Coincidence?" questioned a headline in one, the daily Le Matin.



JOINT EXERCISES: Two American soldiers taking part in joint exercises with Jordanian servicemen clean their weapons during a break in the manoeuvres under way in the southern desert (photo by Yousef Allan)

Kuwait says oil supply to Jordan needs discussion

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwaiti Oil Minister Abdul Mohsen Al Mudej said in remarks published on Saturday that Jordan had not asked Kuwait to supply it with oil but that any request to do so would be discussed.

"Mudej said that such an issue needs discussion and a decision by the government, and a response to this will be given when need arises," the English-language Arab Times said.

"Kuwait has not received any request from Jordan for oil supplies to replace current imports from Iraq," it said in a report based on remarks by Mr. Mudej.

Kuwait halted aid to Jordan in retaliation for what it saw as Amman's sympathy with Iraq during the 1990-91 occupation of the emirate. Since then, Amman has depended completely on oil from Iraq.

The United States on Friday said it was urging Jordan to stop accepting Iraqi Oil. Amman receives about 75,000 barrels per day of Iraqi oil under an arrangement originally meant to pay off Iraq's debts to Jordan from the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war.

As part of its strategy to further isolate Iraq, the United States has pressed Gulf states, notably Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, to supply Jordan's oil needs or provide other assistance.

Washington is rallying support for Jordan among Gulf states in recognition of Amman's decision to grant asylum to two senior Iraqi defectors, including Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein's son-in-law Hussein Kamel Hassan, who formerly headed Iraq's advanced weapons programmes.

Kuwait's foreign minister, Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, was reported on Friday as saying he expected to restore relations with Jordan.

Floods claim 135 in Morocco

RABAT (Agencies) — More than 130 bodies have been recovered from valleys hit by severe floods in southwest Morocco and dozens of people are believed to be missing, Moroccan media reported on Saturday.

Most of the 136 victims were found trapped in cars engulfed in rivers of mud that swept into the valleys from the Atlas Mountain range south of Marrakesh, 350 kilometres from the capital Rabat, the official news agency MAP said.

The floods were touched off by torrential rains which hit the region on Thursday night.

The newspaper Al Alam said nearly 200 people were believed to be missing in the regions of Sidi Fatima, Ouirka, Moulay Ibrahim, Ougane and Zerkene. There was no immediate confirmation of the report by officials.

Moroccan Television showed pictures of cars stacked atop each other like toys and trees which appeared to have snapped like twigs. Bulldozers were clearing roads blocked by mud.

The television said more than 100 homes and shops were destroyed when the waters swept down from the outlying hills, bringing trees crashing down on stone houses and sending cars hurtling into each other.

Interior Minister Driss Bassi visited the disaster scene on Friday and later joined survivors for a prayer of thanks. He said a special commission would be set up to follow up the rescue operation and offer help to the rural communities.

Apart from the 136 drowning victims so far recovered, another 20 mutilated or decapitated bodies have been found by rescue workers, a regional official told AFP.

Those have not yet been counted in the floods death toll as workers continue to search for and identify other victims of the flooding.

The freak storms swept away cars, trees, cattle and even clay-brick houses in several villages. Tents put up for a religious festival were also carried away.

Officials said so far they had not discovered any tourists among the victims.

Congresswoman visits brothel to back Peru chief

LIMA (R) — Condoms and posters in hand, nightclub performer-turned-congresswoman Susy Diaz Friday jumped firmly behind President Alberto Fujimori's controversial family planning programme. Mr. Fujimori, whose July 28 inaugural speech reiterated his strong pro-family planning stance, is embroiled in a public feud over the issue with local catholic church leaders. Controversy is not new to Ms. Diaz, who campaigned for office this year wearing fishnet stockings and mini-skirts, handing out condoms, and flashing a red 13 taped to her bottom for her position on the ballot. "I've come to give away condoms and posters to promote family planning," Ms. Diaz told Trocadero employees and reporters. "I applaud President Fujimori's message on family planning and I'm also going to continue this campaign," she said, adding that she will give away posters in shantytowns and talk with residents about family planning and other issues. Ms. Diaz is no stranger to the Trocadero, which sits in the shadows of ships at Peru's most important port. She has visited before to distribute condoms as part of her own AIDS prevention campaign, but this time she brought family planning posters and brochures and a group of reporters. "It's great. Susy Diaz comes to visit us because we also supported her," said a 23-year-old prostitute named Bella. "I support the family planning policy because having too many children is not good. It's not good to raise four children poorly instead of two children well."

World's 1st 'gene shop' to open in Manchester

LONDON (AFP) — The world's first "gene shop," offering advice and information on a variety of genetic disorders, is to open in the northern English city Manchester next year, the Guardian newspaper reported Saturday. The shop — the brainchild of Maurice Super, head of clinical genetics at the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital — will operate like a citizen's advice bureau and will draw on the latest international research, the paper said. The project could provide advice on testing for genetic diseases such as Down's syndrome, cystic fibrosis, sickle cell disease, and forms of breast and bowel cancer, according to the daily. It will also provide information on the effects of smoking, alcohol and parental age on a foetus. "We hope it will encourage people to find out more about their genes — perhaps because of a family history of genetic disease," Mr. Super told the Guardian. "The more people know about genetic disorders, the better able they are to make decisions about avoiding them," he added.

The shop has been funded by a grant from the European Commission and is expected to remain open for 18 months, the paper said.

Women plan to sue over birth control implant

LONDON (AFP) — British women who claim they suffered serious side-effects after they were prescribed a revolutionary birth control method have formed an action group to sue the distributors of the drug, the Times reported Saturday. They say they were not warned about the side-effects of the Norplant contraceptive implants — small rods which have been inserted into the arms of more than 45,000 British women, the paper said. The women also claim they were not told about the difficulties in removing the so-called "matchsticks." Side-effects experienced by the women include haemorrhaging, skin complaints, incessant bleeding, hair loss and premenstrual tension, according to the Times. About 30 women formed the Norplant Action Group and decided to launch a joint law suit after they learned of the extent of the problem. The Norplant birth control method, launched in Britain in 1993, was heralded as more effective than the pill, having a failure rate of 0.04 per cent in the first year. The method consists of six 34mm capsules implanted by plunger into the arm. The capsules are designed to last for five years.

FIS vows to block presidential polls

ALGIERS (AFP) — A leader of Algeria's banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) pledged Saturday that FIS would prevent the military-backed regime from holding presidential elections scheduled for Nov. 16.

A communiqué from Paris by Anwar Haddam, head of the group's parliamentary delegation abroad, rejected the election and said it was "the duty of everyone to prevent this manoeuvre directed against the Algerian people."

The call pointed towards further guerrilla action against the government two days after a spectacular double car-bomb attack on an exclusive and heavily-guarded official residence outside Algiers which killed two people.

The FIS "categorically rejects this election under the form proposed by the putschists (referring to the Algerian government) and warns against any attempt to internationalise the Algerian crisis," the communiqué added.

Mr. Haddam, one of the regime's most virulent critics, warned that the elections "will prolong the crisis and aggravate the people's suffering."

"The military junta wants to impose (this poll) on the people by force to acquire legitimacy from the international community in the absence of popular legitimacy (in Algeria)," he added.

The government announced the first round date on Friday despite a promised boycott by official opposition parties and the distinct lack of an agreement Islamic fundamentalists.

Algeria has been wracked by violence in which more than 30,000 people have died since the regime annulled elections in January 1992 the FIS was poised to win.

Mr. Haddam said it was "impossible" to reach a political solution to the crisis without using as a base a January agreement signed in Rome by eight opposition groups, including the FIS, but rejected by the government.

He called on countries to break off diplomatic relations with Algeria and

cut all but humanitarian aid.

Meanwhile, in an interview published Saturday in The Times in London, Mr. Haddam said: "The freedom fighters will not allow an election. We are against any act of terrorism but we do support strongly the freedom fighters."

Thursday's attack on the Club des Pins residence outside Algiers, where families of government and other leading officials live, was a spectacular example of where the guerrillas can strike if they want.

Two of the group were drivers working for a tourist company at the compound, which houses the country's most important official residences, the government said in a communiqué.

When police went to arrest one of the drivers, a man opened fire on them with an automatic pistol and was killed in an exchange of fire, the statement added.

The double blast on Thursday killed two people and wounded seven, according to state-run television.

Club des Pins, which has round-the-clock security and limited access, is a collection of villas and chalets housing the families of government officials and other figures threatened by fundamentalists.

The attack came as police claimed the security situation was improving by the week and that safety for the election was guaranteed.

The daily Liberté paper took up the general mood, defining the attack as a "challenge to the state" and asking: "If people in Club des Pins are not safe, who is?"

The daily Tribune said the perpetrators were "a security man, a gardener and a driver" who had got past all checks.

Meanwhile a car bomb exploded Friday at Douera police station 15 kilometres south of Algiers, causing no injuries, and another was dismantled at the town hall in nearby Staoueli, government daily Al Moudjahid reported.

Libya warns of U.S. 'threat' to Iraq, Arabs

TRIPOLI (AFP) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi addressed a message on Friday to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak warning of "the threat to Arab national security" posed by U.S. moves against Iraq, the state news agency said.

Libya requested on Thursday an "urgent" session of the defence council of the Arab League to examine "American provocations" in the region and "threats" from Washington against Iraq. Colonel Qadhafi earlier criticised U.S.-Jordanian military manoeuvres begun on Friday, accusing Washington of seeking to "terrorise" the Arabs.

"The American provocations and military movements including those of aircraft carriers in the Mediterranean Sea, the Red Sea and the Gulf" require a meeting of the league defence council, the Libyan news agency JANA said.

The agency also condemned "threats" by Washington against Baghdad after the United States promised to defend Jordan against reprisals from Baghdad for giving political asylum to Iraqi defectors.

The agency also condemned "threats" by Washington against Baghdad after the United States promised to defend Jordan against reprisals from Baghdad for giving political asylum to Iraqi defectors.

Saga of Cyprus cave woman ends

NICOSIA (R) — The saga of a mysterious "cave woman," whose discovery last April in a remote part of Cyprus caused a commotion in the island, ended on Saturday when she was deported to her native Sweden. But she took some of her secrets with her.

Marie Louise Birgitta Henric, 47, was found dehydrated and semi-comatose in a cave in the far west of Cyprus. She hit the headlines with her refusal to communicate with anyone around her or reveal who she was.

She was given sanctuary in a Greek Orthodox convent but she was thrown out after she scandalised the nuns of the Ayios Nicolaos monastery by drawing sketches of people in the nude.

Ms. Henric was finally identified by her brother after he saw her picture in a Swedish newspaper.

Amnesty: Pakistan condones police brutality

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Amnesty International has accused Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's government of condoning police brutality and "serious human rights violations."

In a statement released Saturday the human rights group said Ms. Bhutto's government has ignored police excesses in its attempt to end the relentless violence that has terrorised Karachi in recent months.

"Against this backdrop of escalating violence, Amnesty

International today held the government of Pakistan responsible for serious human rights violations committed in the context of (a) concerted campaign for law and order in the city," the statement said.

It accused police in Karachi of illegally detaining people, beating and blindfolding suspects and killing suspects in custody.

A spokesman for Ms. Bhutto denied the Amnesty International charges.

"This is a propaganda

war," Farhatullah Babar, Ms. Bhutto's press assistant, told the Associated Press Saturday.

"The government denies that there have been collobored murders or that terrorists have been killed in police custody," he said.

In the last three months nearly 900 people have been killed in Karachi by gunmen, who fire at random from rooftops and ethnic militants, who roam the streets in gangs armed with sophisticated weapons.

Israeli copters kill 4 guerrillas in Lebanon

MARJAYOUN (Agencies) — Israeli helicopter gunships blasted guerrilla targets in South Lebanon on Saturday, killing four guerrillas, security and pro-Israeli militia sources said.

Lebanese security sources said four helicopters fired rockets and machineguns at a group of guerrillas in the Yohmor area near the market town of Nabatieh north of the Jewish state's South Lebanon occupation zone.

Sources with the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) said later that an Israeli patrol found the bodies of three guerrillas in an area near Yohmor on the edge of the 15-kilometre deep Israeli-held zone hours after the air raid.

They said two of the guer-

illas were from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC) and the third was a guide from the pro-Iranian Hizbollah.

Security sources outside the zone said a fourth guerrilla who was wounded made it into Yohmor village just outside the zone and died there before he could be taken to hospital by the villagers.

It was not immediately known if he was a PFLP-GC or Hizbollah member.

Israeli forces spotted the guerrilla squad in the morning as it tried to sneak into the central sector of the Israeli-held area near the Crusader-built Beaufort Castle, a major Israeli stronghold, the sources said.

A Merkava tank's crew

opened up on the infiltrators, firing up to 50 shells. Two helicopter gunships rocketed the area around Yohmor.

"Four missiles were fired in Israel's 25th air strike in Lebanon this year."

Israeli and SLA artillery positions also shelled the southern market town of Nabatieh near the central sector of the enclave Israel occupies as a "security zone" against cross-border guerrilla raids.

Saturday's casualties brought this year's toll to 117 dead and 284 injured in hostilities this year in South Lebanon.

Eleven PFLP-GC guerrillas were wounded in two air raids against group hideouts in South Lebanon this

U.N. agencies issue urgent Somalia appeal

NAIROBI (R) — U.N. agencies in Somalia issued an urgent appeal on Saturday to donors to help bring relief to a nation still mired in violence and anarchy.

The U.N. Coordination Team (UNCT) said in a statement in Nairobi that out of \$70 million requested in January by U.N. relief groups, only \$14 million had been contributed so far, and cash-starved agencies were forced to cut back on staff.

UNCT said U.N. agencies were suffering from lack of resources at a time when food and medical needs were rising and agencies such as the children's body UNICEF were operating on funds left over from 1994.

"Even though there are sufficient food supplies in the city markets, and prices are quite low, many people simply do not have the money to buy food," said Erling De-

sau of the U.N. Development Programme (UNDP). "We have been monitoring the situation over the past six months. UNICEF and WFP (World Food Programme) have increased their emergency stocks, but if we do not receive minimum inputs from donors, the current level of emergency assistance and preventive programmes will not be possible," Mr. Dessau said.

UNCT urged all Somali factions to cease hostilities and pursue reconciliation, saying it could not effectively address Somali humanitarian needs without the cooperation of the Somali people.

The U.N. group said security problems in the Somalia capital Mogadishu were a direct cause of malnutrition, as violent skirmishes prevented people from reaching market places.

"In recent weeks, a num-

ber of violent attacks on public transport buses have killed and wounded many innocent people. Commercial transporters often cannot reach markets in certain areas such as Medina where malnutrition rates are high," it said.

Since the U.N. peacekeeping operation U.N. Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM) left Somalia in February, thousands of people have become jobless and no longer have the cash to buy food and other necessities.

UNOSOM was the largest employer in Mogadishu, providing for a workforce of 10,000. Local businesses and fringe services in the city boomed at the height of the international presence.

In the aftermath of five years of civil war that killed some 30,000 people, induced a famine that killed 10 times that number and shattered the economy, the capital

Mogadishu lags behind all other region in terms of rehabilitation and recovery.

Somali factions have shown no sign of uniting since the UNOSOM pullout. Faction leaders opposed to warlord Mohammed Farah Aided on Thursday dismissed his claims to be president and thanked the world for refusing to recognise his government.

Aided forces control the southern part of the Somali capital and he was elected by his supporters as president of Somalia in June and formed a "government."

But he has received no international recognition. Former Aided financier Osman Ali Hassan Atto thanked the international community and the Organisation of African Unity, "which have recognised the fact that there is no government in Somalia."

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